

Hafa Adai!

435 total participants served by SAAR since 2017. **PAGE 2**

Supreme Court affirms trial court in suit arising from probate dispute. **PAGE 3**

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## DPS apprehends coin thieves

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Public Safety arrested two individuals involved in the recent coin machine theft and burglary at Fresh Laundry in San Vicente last Friday at their residences.

George Grover, 33, and Dino Mettao, 32, the two individuals allegedly responsible for the heist at the  
*See DPS on Page 4*



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dino Mettao is escorted back to the Department of Corrections following his bail hearing yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

George Grover, left, leaves the NMI Superior Court in Susupe after his bail hearing yesterday.

## Kilili's legislation seeks 3-fold increase of federal funding for CNMI policing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
delatorreferdie@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced this week a bipartisan legislation that seeks to in-

crease the federal funding for law enforcement, courts, and justice-related initiatives in the CNMI.

Sablan also disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that the CNMI is receiving a total

of \$2.17 million in federal funds for six programs.

Sablan's legislation, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa Criminal

*See KILILI on Page 4*



## Star Marianas, CPA to meet to discuss airport fee structure

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After much back and forth regarding fees for the use of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Star Marianas Air, Inc. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have finally agreed to meet to discuss concerns raised regarding CPA's fee-structure.

Following multiple letters from Star Marianas regarding concerns about CPA's free structure and its intent to ask the Federal Aviation Administration to  
*See STAR on Page 4*

## IPI creditors to hire investment banker in sale of IPI casino/resort

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In an attempt to identify more potential buyers and possibly up the sale price of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/hotel and other properties, IPI creditors intend to hire Intrepid Investment Bankers LLC to market IPI's properties as a holistic business instead of real estate property.

Yesterday, the official committee of IPI general unsecured creditors submitted an application to the NMI bankruptcy court for entry of an order authorizing the committee to retain Intrepid Investment Bankers LLC as investment banker for the committee.

*See IPI on Page 4*

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Students of Northern Marianas College have made their voices heard by recently electing new officers to the college's student government body, the Associated Students of NMC.

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#### WORLD

Hezbollah fired over 100 rockets early Sunday across northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon.

**PAGE 10**



#### LIFE & STYLE

It's a three-peat for "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." The Tim Burton legacy sequel to his 1988 horror comedy topped the North American box office charts for the third straight weekend with \$26 million in ticket sales.

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**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

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# Local

## 435 total participants served by SAAR since 2017

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
rxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

A total of 435 participants have been served by the Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation since August 2017, according to SAAR program manager Charlotte Flores.

"Since we opened our doors in August 2017, we have served a total of 435 participants, including processing referrals, assessments, and outpatient treatment services, so we serve individuals who

don't necessarily reside in the Hinemlo O'hala Para Entera-menti Recovery Center. Ninety-one participants successfully completed their treatment. It's important to note that our participants typically reside on our compound for a duration of 5-6 months, depending on their individual treatment plans, and we cap at 18 participants every 5-6 months," said Flores.

Numerous factors can lead individuals to use drugs, according to Flores.

"It may be curiosity, peer



RACQUEL FLOYD

The Community Outreach Partnership Program building in Chalan Kanoa opened last Aug. 19.

pressure, lack of awareness, trauma, cultural influences, family dynamics, socioeconomic status, mental health issues, exposure to drugs, etc. It's important to recognize that substance use does not discriminate."

Flores added that though their rehabilitation is receiving more self-referrals than referrals from their stakeholders, in the absence of the current statistics, there has been an increase in substance use.

"I don't have the current statistics of substance use in the CNMI, however, from attending stakeholders' meet-

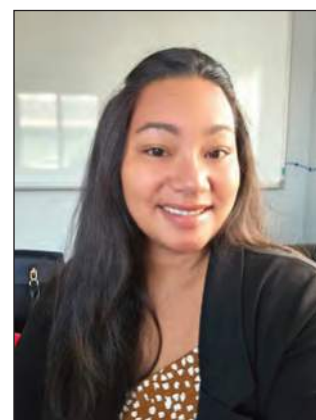
ings, and using our program's data and comparing it to previous years, there has been an increase in substance use. As long as drugs and other substances are still around and easily accessible, this epidemic will still persist. The latest trend we are seeing is that it is reaching the younger generation, and we are receiving more self-referrals than referrals from our stakeholders, which tells us there is a strong motivation and a growing acceptance of the need for treatment and a reduction in stigma associated with seeking help. In some cases, individuals

may find themselves in urgent situations that motivate them to seek help immediately," added Flores.

Flores explained the difference between HOPE Recovery Center and the Community Outreach Partnership Program. She said the former offers residential treatment where participants get to reside at SAAR for up to 5-6 months depending on their treatment plan and goals.

The Community Outreach Partnership, meanwhile, offers aftercare services, prevention, outpatient services, and re-entry services in partnership with the CNMI Department of Corrections. The Community Outreach Partnership program also assists children and families with case management services, community linkage, and educational guidance and assistance for children and their families.

SAAR is committed to providing culturally and evidence-based treatment and best-practiced strategy services for rehabilitation and recovery to enhance the overall quality of life for individuals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation program manager Charlotte Flores.

who struggle with substance abuse and behavioral difficulties related to addictions.

Re-entry services are in partnership with the CNMI Department of Corrections and prevention efforts to raise awareness of the effects and consequences of substance use in the CNM are among the SAAR programs offered.

Furthermore, Flores said HOPE Recovery Center currently has about 16 participants. They also have a waiting list of potential participants hoping to get into the recovery center for residential treatment.

See SAAR on Page 3

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-029**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

**PROCUREMENT OF PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS AND FISHER & PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIERS**  
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning)  
for CHC Hospital / Respiratory Care Department)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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2022

**Appreciation Spotlight**

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and passion of Ms. Melissa Palacios, Science of Early Learning Coordinator, and Ms. Rayanna Fitia, Science of Early Learning Administrative Assistant. These remarkable women are the driving force behind the CNMI Brain Builders. They brought their unwavering "can do" attitude to every challenge and opportunity. Your commitment to early learning and your positive energy inspire us every day! Thank you for your exceptional work and tireless efforts over the years!

2023

2024

# Supreme Court affirms trial court in suit arising from probate dispute

The Supreme Court affirmed last Sept. 23 the dismissal of John S. Pangelinan's claim on an issue the probate court had already decided in 2016. The court also affirmed the trial court's entry of judgment for abuse of process and an award of damages for attorney's fees to Secundina and Selina Pangelinan. Finally, the Supreme Court rejected arguments that

appellees libeled John, that the trial court erred in setting aside an entry of default against Appellees, and that the trial judge should be disqualified and reversed for bias.

This case stems from the 2016 probate of the estate of Norberto Eduardo Pangelinan, appellees' late husband and father and John's first cousin. During the probate

case, John claimed that Norberto was not of Northern Marianas Descent, and therefore he and his heirs could not own land under Article XII of the NMI Constitution. John argued that he should inherit the land instead. The probate court found that Norberto was NMD and dismissed John's claim. In a follow-up lawsuit, John at-

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
The CNMI Guma Hustisia or CNMI Judiciary in Supe.

tempted to bring the same claim about Norberto's NMD status again, and the trial court dismissed his claim on the basis that the issue had already been decided.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's dismissal because court decisions that determine a person's NMD status preclude parties in John's position from raising the issue again. The Supreme Court affirmed the award of attorney's fees to for abuse of process related to his actions during the probate proceedings. (PR)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### New hours of operation for Lower Base Transfer Station, Marpi Landfill

Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Management Division has updated the hours of operations of the Lower Base Transfer Station and Marpi Landfill effective last Monday, Sept. 23, 2024

The Lower Base Transfer Station is now open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:45am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 3pm. It's closed for lunch from 11:30am to 12:30pm. It's also closed on Sunday and Wednesday.

The Marpi Landfill, meanwhile, is open Monday

## SAAR

From page 2

Flores mentioned that addressing substance use disorder in the CNMI requires a community-wide effort.

"To combat this longstanding epidemic, we can implement several prevention strategies, including ongoing education and awareness efforts. The goal is to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of substance use in the Public School System and private schools, sports programs, and community settings. Provide mental health support for both children and adults, involve parents in prevention efforts through family interventions, and engage youth in community service and mentorship programs. Additionally, we must add focus on educating our children on essential life skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, and stress management, while encouraging positive social connections and support systems."

Flores also added that they should be committed to helping individuals struggling with substance use through treatment, with the hope that they can break the cycle and raise their children with the knowledge and understanding to avoid drug use.

For more information, the HOPE Recovery Center hotline is (670) 323-4673

through Saturday from 8am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 2:45pm an closed for lunch from 11:30pm to 12:30pm. It's closed on Sunday.

For more information, call (670) 322-2745/2760. (PR)

### OVR closed tomorrow

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be closed on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024 from 9am to 1pm due to the Joint State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council General Membership Meeting at the Aqua Resort Club. For urgent matters, call (670) 287-6538. (PR)



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-021

#### AFETNAS WATERLINE REPLACEMENT and

#### AFETNAS SEWERLINE COLLECTION UPGRADE PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **Afetnas Waterline Replacement project** consists of replacing existing water mains on Afetna Road, Buninas Loop, Chalak Lane, Pios Drive, Uahu Lane, Toson Drive, Sata Drive, and Doddo Way. New water pipelines, saddles, corporation & curb stops, and relocation & reconnection to the existing water meters will be installed and done to accomplish the work. The work will include shallow excavations, rock-breaking, installing new flush & fire hydrants, pressure & air relief valves, connecting new service laterals, asphalt pavement restoration, installing flowable fill, and other appurtenances for a complete and functional water system.

The **Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I project** consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment, and materials for the construction of various improvements within an area. This work includes, but is not limited to installation of new gravity main and new sewer manholes, service laterals, connection of new service laterals to existing service laterals, abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water and sewer systems. CUC requires the Projects to be completed in 540 calendar days from the date of the award of the contract.

These projects are funded by grants from the United States American Rescue Plan Act (US ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The award of these projects is contingent upon receipt of approval for project awards from US ARPA and US EPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-021, Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 7, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time and post-marked before the due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns, and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contract nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to a lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 16, 2024,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Kennet Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org](mailto:kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org), and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

#### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes
    - I. August 29, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
  - E. Correspondence
- II. Management Reports
  - A. Executive Director's Report
  - B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
  - C. Legal Counsel's Report
- III. Committee Reports
  - A. Standing Committee for Appeals
    - I. 24-001-PS
    - II. 24-002-PS
  - B. Personnel Committee
    - I. 24-0001-CA
    - II. 24-0002-CA
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Update on Government and CHCC Receivables & Payment Status
  - B. Proposed Changes and Updates to CUC Classification & Compensation Plan/Organizational Chart
  - C. Privatization of Power Generation
- V. New Business
  - A. Proposed Amendments to CUC Procurement Regulations
  - B. OPA 1% Fee Pursuant to Public Law 1 CMC § 7831
  - C. CUC Rota Office Lease/Purchase Proposal
- VI. Public Comments\*
- VII. Executive Session\*\*
- VIII. Announcement
- IX. Adjournment

/s/

JANICE A. TENORIO  
CHAIRWOMAN

\* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.  
\*\* All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.  
\*\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors



## DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB24-OGM/RT-42400137

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

#### "PONA POINT CLIFF FISHING PARK PROJECT, ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR. AT [EPI.CABRERA@GOV.MP](mailto:EPI.CABRERA@GOV.MP) BY 4:30 P.M. CHST., SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.  
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

# \$20K bail for two men arrested for theft

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Public Safety nabbed two more individuals accused of theft over the weekend.

Assistant chief and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop disclosed yesterday that police officers were able to apprehend another two individuals accused of theft last Friday and Saturday.

Facing charges of receiving stolen property and theft

by deception, Jimmy Jr. Regunan Joaquin, 34, was apprehended last Friday and Venny Untalan, 27, charged with theft, was apprehended early Saturday morning.

The men appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe yesterday for their bail hearing, during which



Joaquin



Untalan

Camacho maintained their \$10,000 cash bail each, before remanding them back to the Department of Corrections.

With Untalan having two cases already pending on Tinian where he is said to reside, his defense asked Camacho that the case be brought over to Tinian, but Camacho said that since the crime was committed on Saipan, this case would remain and continue at the court here, instead of pivoting everyone to Tinian.

Both Joaquin and Untalan are scheduled to reappear before court on Oct. 2, 2024 at 10am for preliminary hearing and Oct. 7, 2024 at 9am for an arraignment. Public defense attorney Charlene Brown was assigned to represent both men, and assistant attorneys general David Karch and Daniel Johnson will represent the CNMI government.

Court documents say that on July 6, at 11:11am, DPS officers responded to a reported burglary and theft case at Marianas Health Clinic in San Jose. Officers arrived shortly after and met with the clinic administrator who reported that their office had been burglarized. DPS

said two Surface Pro-9 1 Pad laptop worth \$3,800, two HP laptop worth \$2,500, and petty cash money worth \$350 were stolen from their office.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DPS

From page 1

laundromat and are facing charges of theft and burglary with a \$10,000 bail for each man.

The two appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at the Superior Court in Susupe yesterday and were remanded back to the Department of Corrections after their hearing. They are set to reappear before the court for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 2, 2024 at 10am, and on Oct. 7, 2024 at 9am for arraignment.

Public defense attorney Charlene Brown was assigned to represent Mettao, and due to a stay away order, the co-defendants will have separate attorneys from the Office of Public Defender. An attorney was promised to represent Grover as well, but as of the hearing, it has not been confirmed yet which attorney would represent him. Assistant attorneys general David Karch and Daniel Johnson will represent the CNMI government.

According to court documents, on Aug. 28, 2024, at

around 8:21am, DPS officers were dispatched to a reported theft incident at Fresh Laundry located in San Vicente. When officers arrived, they met with the owner and victim who reported that a coin machine for his laundry was stolen. According to the victim, that morning around 7am, he discovered that his coin machine was missing. Upon reviewing surveillance footage, he discovered that someone stole it. The surveillance footage showed that on Aug. 28, 2024, at around 3:21am, a red-colored sedan parked at the entrance of Fresh Laundry. An individual wearing full clothing covering his face entered the laundry and walked toward the back, took the coin machine, placed it into the sedan and left. The owner estimated the coin machine to have from \$1,500 to \$2,000 because he last checked it on Aug. 25, 2024 and saw it was almost full. According to the owner the coin machine can hold up to about \$3,000 when full.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## IPI

From page 1

According to the committee's request, to identify potential buyers overlooked by the debtor's limited marketing process (IPI is currently only marketing its properties as real estate), it is essential for the committee to retain proposed investment banker Intrepid.

"The investment banker will bring the necessary expertise and industry connections to market the business effectively as a holistic business. Should this approach not succeed, the real estate broker proposed by the debtor can then proceed with a real estate sale. This comprehensive and strategic asset disposition plan will benefit both the estate and creditors. Intrepid has been in-

formed and understands that no sale may be consummated until after all creditors and parties in interest have received notice of the pending sale and have had an opportunity for a hearing before the United States Bankruptcy Court," said the committee's request.

IPI's primary real estate assets include a hotel building currently under construction with a casino, a leasehold in-

terest in approximately 19,204 square meters of land leased from the DPL under Lease Agreement No. LA-15-002S, and IPI's ownership interest in Imperial Pacific Properties, LLC, which holds a leasehold interest in eight lots adjacent to the leasehold property.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## KILILI

From page 1

Justice Support Act (H.R. 9638), supports crime prevention in the islands by allowing the CNMI and American Samoa to be separately funded entities under the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

The legislation proposes to amend the definition of State in Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

The delegate said currently, the CNMI and American Sa-

moa are considered as one entity for funding, unlike the other U.S. insular areas and the 50 states.

He said if his legislation is enacted, program funding for the CNMI would triple.

The bill was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary.

Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) is an original cosponsor of the bill.

Sablan said regarding the six federal funds, the CNMI is awarded a total of \$2,175,476 from the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of

Justice, and U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Close Up Foundation is getting \$100,000 to help fund the 2024 Youth Summit in the Marianas, while the Commonwealth Criminal Justice Planning Agency is receiving \$621,521 to help combat violence against women, and \$313,977 more to be used to enhance crime victim services.

The CIPA is also receiving \$121,280 for the continual funding of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program at the Department of Corrections, the CNMI is getting \$948,281 for Fiscal Year

2024 via the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Program to tackle environmental projects, and the Commonwealth Department of Lands and Natural Resources is being awarded \$71,417 for on-island biosecurity training to prevent the spread of harmful organisms in the community.

Regarding the funding for the Youth Summit, Sablan said the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs announced last week the awarding of the \$100,000.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## STAR

From page 1

investigate CPA's rates, CPA board Chair Jose Ayuyu wrote back to Star Marianas agreeing to meet for a discussion with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in attendance.

"I, alongside the executive director of CPA and staff have met with the governor. CPA is open to meeting and discussing any outstanding issues that you may have. I have asked the governor to reach out to you to coordinate a meeting with representatives from both Star Marianas and CPA," Ayuyu said in his letter.

In response, Star Marianas chair Robert Christian said he appreciates CPA's willingness to meet and discuss their concerns.

"Thank you for your letter acknowledging receipt of our concerns regarding the CPA's fee-setting practices under NMIAC 40-10.1 and the related allegations of collusion. We appreciate your willingness to meet and discuss these important issues, and we look forward to engaging in a constructive dialogue with representatives from the CPA, as well as Gov. Palacios. Please

let us know the time and date that works best for the meeting so we can coordinate accordingly," he said.

Last week, Christian sent a letter to Ayuyu informing the agency that Star Marianas will no longer be tolerating its "scheme to bypass federal fee setting regulations" by "coercing airlines into compliance with non-compensatory fees."

"I am writing to formally and unequivocally object to the unethical and coercive tactics employed by the CPA under the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Title 40, Subchapter 40-10.1: Airport Rules and Regulations (NMIAC 40-10.1). It is abundantly clear that the CPA, in coordination with its legal counsel and consultants, has engaged in a deliberate scheme to bypass federal fee setting regulations, coerce airlines into compliance with non-compensatory fees, and subvert the principles of fairness mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration. This egregious behavior cannot and will not be tolerated," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400147**

**SUBMISSION DATE: October 11, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Agatan Stream/South Achugao Drainage Improvements."**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**


The project package will be available on or after **September 10, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**, ChST at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on October 07, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/RAY N. YUMUL**  
Secretary, DPW

**/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.**  
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp  
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, September 26, 2024, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room at Bldg., #1242, Pohnpei Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

**I.** Meeting Call to Order

**II.** Determination of Quorum

**III.** Review and Adoption of Agenda

**IV.** Review and Adoption of Minutes

**V.** Public Comments

**VI.** Chairperson's Report

- Executive Director's contract renewal (for approval)**

**VII.** Director's Report

**VIII.** Investigator's Report

**IX.** Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature

- A.** Governor's Office
- B.** Legislature

**X.** Old Business

**XI.** New Business

**XII.** Pending Applications for Board's Review

**XIII.** Miscellaneous Business

**XIV.** Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.

**XV.** Announcements

- A.** Next Meeting Date
- B.** Adjournment of Meeting

Back-to-school haircut on Rota a success

ROTA—The Office of Representative Julie Ogo, in collaboration with the Saipan Maga’haga Lady Eagles Club and their president Maria Aileen, the Rota Mayor’s Office, Mayor Aubrey Hocog, and the 19th Rota Municipal Council, is proud to announce the resounding success of this year’s Annual Back-to-School Haircut Free Service Event.

The event, which provides free haircuts to children preparing for the new school year, surpassed last year’s number of participants, marking an outstanding achievement in community service.

With the addition of a new hairstylist this year, we were also able to extend services to a few senior citizens, making the event more inclusive and reflective of our commitment to

all members of the community. Ogo expressed her gratitude to everyone who made this year’s event a success and shared plans to expand this outreach program in the future. “It’s our goal to extend this service to the elderly and disabled residents of Rota, ensuring that everyone in our community feels supported and cared for,” said Ogo.

This year’s event wouldn’t have been possible without the dedication of the following hairstylists, who generously took time from their schedules to lend their talents:

- Noel Casquero “Shar-maine” – Mommyla Beauty Salon, Saipan
- Remy Raymundo “Jana”–Creative Salon, Saipan
- Rowin Regonas – Creative Salon, Saipan
- Arnel Paquio – OB

Beauty Salon, Rota

Additionally, Ogo would like to express her sincere appreciation to the following government and private sector entities for their support and services:

- Coral Garden Hotel
- FunFlatables
- Rota Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

“The success of this year’s event reflects the power of community collaboration and shared values. We look forward to continuing this initiative and expanding our outreach to even more members of the Rota community in the years to come,” said Ogo.

For more information or to get involved in future events, contact the Office of Representative Julie Ogo at (670) 664-8888. (PR)

CBMA to solicit assistance from DOD’s IRT Program

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs intends to solicit assistance at no cost from the Department of Defense’s Innovative Readiness Training Program for the following community project:

■ Project title: CNMI Wellness

■ Project description: The proposed assistance will provide no-cost healthcare services to under-served residents of CNMI. through ba-

sic medical, dental, optometry, behavioral health, and veterinary (small animal) examinations and services.

■ Project location: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

■ Project timeframe: The proposed assistance will occur during the spring/summer of Fiscal Year 2026.

Healthcare providers, labor unions, or private individuals who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for

this project may contact Tom Linden, policy advisor to the Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for military affairs, at (670) 488-0660/0220, or by email at tom.linden@gov.mp; or by mail at Caller Box 10007; Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 30 days after posting of this notice. Persons not responding within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for this project. (PR)



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Island Training Solutions is seeking part-time/contracted instructors in the above areas.

Applicants should be able to provide certifications, education, and experience in the areas they wish to instruct. Teaching or instructing experience is preferred, but not required Strong command of the English language (spoken and written) and presenting skills required.

Instructor-led classes will follow a set curriculum and pacing. Classes may be in book or online formats. Instructors are responsible for basic reporting such as attendance and quiz/test scoring.

Instructors are expected to prepare participants to sit for recognized certification exams.

Class participants can range from high school to adult learners. Seeking US citizen, Green Card, etc. holders

Submit resume with on-island references to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com – attention to Jim Arenovski



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Board of Directors

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Regular Board Meeting on Friday, September 27, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the CPA Meeting Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan CNMI. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. CALL TO ORDER
  - B. ROLL CALL
  - C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
  - D. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
    - 1. Regular Board of Directors Meeting – July 19, 2024
    - 2. Special Board of Directors Meeting – August 2, 2024
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. CORRESPONDENCES
- III. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
  - A. AMENDMENT TO BOARD BY-LAWS
    - 1. Committee Members and Committee Meetings
- IV. AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
    - 1. Supplemental Budget Requests
      - a. Port of Saipan: Construction Management Services for Port of Saipan Office Leak Repairs-CPA-SS-001-22
      - b. Saipan Seaport: A&E Design and Planning Services for Port of Saipan Charlie Dock Extension-CPA-SS-001-24
      - c. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport: Additional budget for Insurance Expense Additional budget for Utilities Expense Benjamin T. Manglona/Rota International Airport
      - d. Port of Saipan: Additional budget for Insurance
      - e. Francisco M. Borja/Tinian International Airport: Provide and Install Three (3) 5 Ton, Two (2) 4 Ton and one (1) 10 Ton Brand New Commercial Air-Conditioning Unit – Total 6 Units; Project No. CPA-IFB-007-24 (Repackaged)
      - f. Benjamin T. Manglona/Rota International Airport: Multiple repairs caused by Typhoon Mawar at the Benjamin T. Manglona/Rota Int’l Airport Main Terminal & ARFF Facility; FY 2024-18A
    - 2. Bank Signatories
    - 3. Board Expenses
    - 4. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget
    - 5. Financial Affairs Committee Report (with Grants and Internal Auditor’s Report. and Financial Reports - Seaport and Airport (May 2024 - July 2024))
  - B. AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE
    - 1. Car Rental Concession
      - a. Determination of Scope
      - b. Procurement Method
      - c. Evaluation Plan
    - 2. Saipan: Airport Parking
    - 3. Saipan: Custodial Services
    - 4. ATM: Authority Concession Grant No. SAT-2024-01
    - 5. Final Adoption of Airport Rules and Regulations: Airline Rates
    - 6. Airport Facilities Committee Report – as of August 30, 2024
  - C. SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE
    - 1. Smith Bridge
    - 2. IP&E Lease Amendment Request (Port of Saipan)
    - 3. Department of Lands and Natural Resources Request to Increase Fees
    - 4. Amendment to Harbor Regulations: Port Fees
    - 5. Adoption of Emergency Regulations to the Terminal Tariff Rules and Regulations
    - 6. Updates on Seaport activities
  - D. PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
    - 1. Tinian Seaport Personnel Restructure
      - a. Supervisor for Operations & Maintenance
      - b. Tariff Technician I
      - c. Vessel Traffic Controller I
    - 2. Personnel Rules and Regulations Amendment
    - 3. Final Adoption of Personnel Rules and Regulations: Drug Policy
    - 4. Organizational Chart
    - 5. Personnel Affairs Committee Report
  - E. Airline Incentive: Ad hoc Committee Report
- V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
  - A. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: ELECTION OF OFFICERS
    - 1. Election of Chairman
    - 2. Election of Vice Chairman
    - 3. Election of Secretary
    - 4. Appointment of Treasurer
  - B. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
    - 1. Financial Affairs Committee
    - 2. Airport Facilities Committee
    - 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
    - 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
  - C. Board Resolution: Fermin M. Sakisat
  - D. Continuation of Landing Fees & Terminal Rental Rate Reduction Program
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL MATTERS
  - A. Executive Director’s Report
  - B. Board Expenses
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/  
JOSE C. AYUYU  
Chairman

\*All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.  
Video conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 • Passcode: 573227

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Restraint, respect needed from those who aspire to lead

**P**olitics can be a rough-and-tumble enterprise, a dominion where those with thick skin, steel jaws and bare knuckles thrive. Nobody expects the candidates competing in hotly contested races to resolve their differences with pillow fights.

But in a country where mental health services are sparse for those who need them and nearly everyone has ready access to guns, the overheated rhetoric in the public arena is increasingly dangerous—and those who desire to lead must do better.

On Sunday, the U.S. Secret Service thwarted what it termed an assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump as he played golf at his country club in West Palm Beach, Florida. That incident follows one in July in which a gunman opened fire on a Trump rally in Pennsylvania, killing one person and injuring others, including the former president, who was struck in the ear.

Details are still emerging about the alleged gunman but, as with the shooter in July, his political views appear chaotic and hard to discern. He claims to have voted for Trump in 2016 before shifting allegiances to other Republican presidential candidates this year, and he appears to have been animated by Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

Reporting suggests he also has a lengthy criminal record for weapons violations, calling into question how he was able to obtain the AK-47 Secret Service officers say they recovered at the scene. However, it is a fact of American life that those determined to access firearms can do so, even when they are a demonstrable threat to themselves and others.

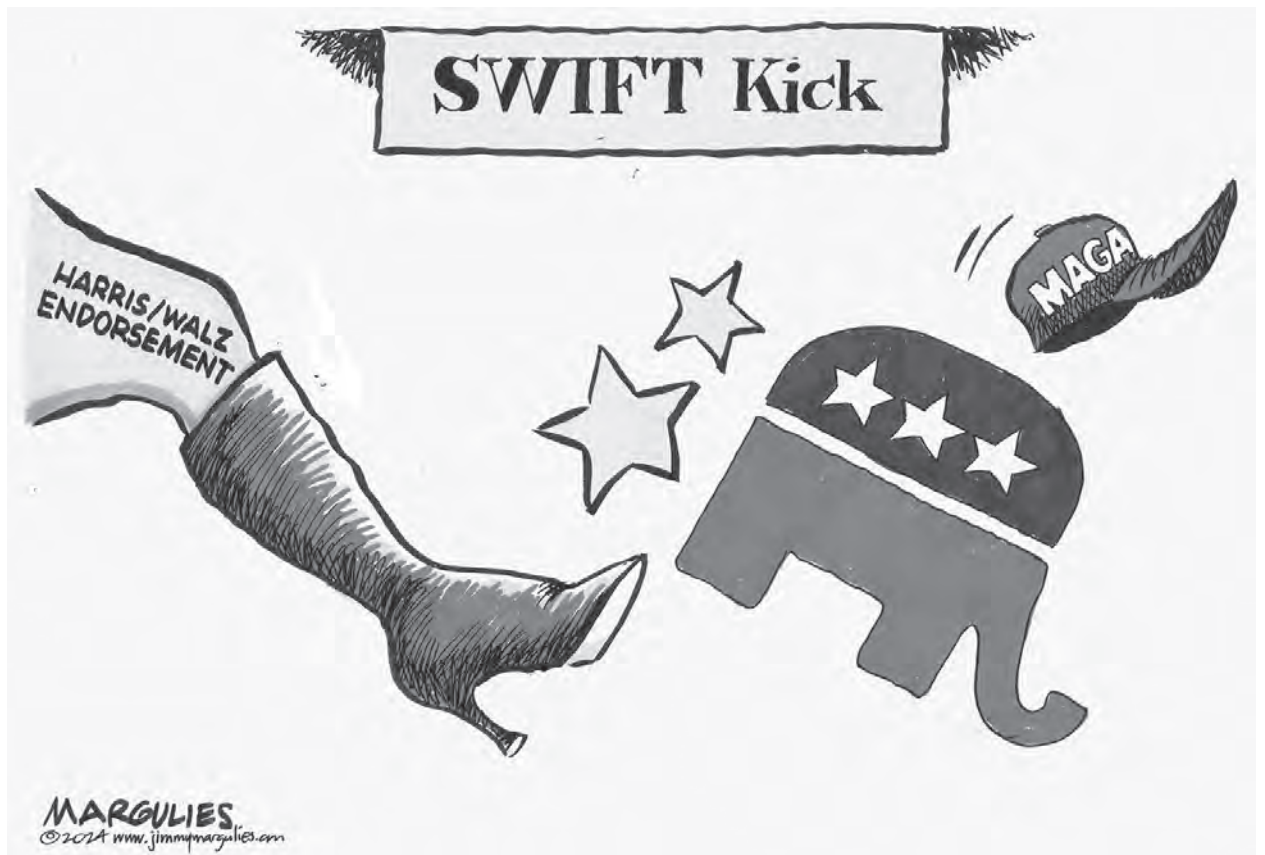
Couple that with mental health services that are difficult for those in crisis to access, and together they form a volatile stew for those with ill intent. Wave after wave of disinformation, from domestic and international sources alike, seeks to divide the American electorate, pitting neighbor against neighbor and causing otherwise reasonable citizens to view others as a threat to their way of life.

Worse, though, are candidates and officials who peddle in disinformation as a pathway toward election. Those who willfully traffic in lies do not have your best interests in mind. They do not care about you or your families. And they are unconcerned by the effects of their poisonous rhetoric.

On this, no side is blameless. Both Republicans and Democrats have the opportunistic among their ranks who convince themselves that doing anything to win is simply how the game is played, consequences be damned.

That is why it's so important, especially at such a fraught moment for our republic, that those seeking elected office and those who hold sway in the political arena seize this moment to elevate the tenor of our debate — to inspire rather than degrade, and to appeal to the better angels of our nature instead of the lowest common denominator.

Case in point: Only hours after the Secret Services detained the alleged gunman on Sunday, Vice Presidential candidate JD Vance baselessly blamed Democratic rhetoric for inspiring

See **RESTRAINT** on Page 7

## Trump's politics of hate have come for Taylor Swift

**L**ast month on Truth Social, former President Donald Trump reposted a collage of young women wearing "Swifties for Trump" T-shirts. Most of the images clearly looked as if they'd been generated by AI.

"I accept!" Trump told his 7.1 million followers, prompting the world's most famous childless cat lady to come at him with her claws out.

"Recently I was made aware that AI of 'me' falsely endorsing Donald Trump's presidential run was posted to his site," Taylor Swift wrote on Instagram right after Vice President Kamala Harris wiped the floor with Trump in their first and probably only debate. "It really conjured up my fears around AI, and the dangers of spreading misinformation. It brought me to the conclusion that I need to be very transparent about my actual plans for this election as a voter. The simplest way to combat misinformation is with the truth."

And so, she wrote, she will be voting for Harris for president, and signed her post "Childless Cat Lady."

"I think she is a steady-handed, gifted leader and I believe we can accomplish so much more in this country if we are led by calm and not chaos," Swift told her 284 million followers.

I don't know how many of them are American voters, but it takes only a tiny fraction of that number to change an outcome in a battleground state. In 2020, for example, Wisconsin voters chose President Joe Biden over then-President Trump by 20,682 votes. In Georgia, it was even closer. Biden won the state by 11,779 votes, prompting Trump's infamous and arguably illegal plea to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" him 11,780 more votes. But I digress.

Swift also urged her legions of fans to register to vote, telling them, "Your research is all yours to do, and the choice is yours to make. ... Remember, that in order to vote, you have to be registered!" She linked to a voter registration site operated by the federal government and the effect was immediate. More than 405,000 visitors clicked on the link in the 24 hours after Swift posted.

Those clicks alone don't necessarily translate into new registrations, or to votes. But Tom Bonier, of the data firm TargetSmart, said they might. "What we saw was this massive increase, we're calling it the Swift Effect now," Bonier said last week on "Face the Nation." And, he added, according to data compiled since 2020, about 80% of voters who register this late in the election cycle actually end up voting.

A day after Swift's endorsement, Trump melted down like the Wicked Witch of the West. "I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT!" he screeched on Truth Social.

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**

Los Angeles Times



That seemed even less presidential than usual for Trump. The outburst prompted MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell to declare that he "has the most hateful mind and spirit in presidential history."

O'Donnell researched presidential statements and was able to find only one other president who used the word "hate" so publicly, George H.W. Bush. I thought O'Donnell was going to mention Bush's famous antipathy for broccoli, but he was referring to Bush's 2002 profession of hatred for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

The thing about hate is that, like fear, it's a powerful motivator. Hatred and fear, in fact, are the most important arrows in Trump's political quiver, integral to his dark vision of an America that is falling apart and in need of a savior.

The Trump-Vance campaign's scapegoating of legal immigrants from Haiti who have settled in Springfield, Ohio, is a natural, if inexcusable, extension of the politics of hate. Likewise, his bizarrely close relationship with kooky racist Islamophobe Laura Loomer and, of course, his enduring embrace of the white nationalists and Holocaust deniers who swirl around Mar-a-Lago.

His vice presidential pick, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, is an exemplar of how hatred is integral to Trump's success.

"I think our people hate the right people," Vance said in an interview with the American Conservative in 2021, when he was seeking his Senate seat. Maybe this was supposed to be a clever throwaway quote, along the lines of comparing Democrats to childless cat ladies, a trope Vance originated at around the same time.

In profound ways, Vance's hate comment distills the very ethos of the MAGA movement.

It's too soon to know whether turning Trump's hose of hatred on Swift will backfire on him.

But how delightful would it be for a Harris victory to come in on little cat feet?

# This bellwether county picked 11 straight presidential winners. Here's how it views Trump vs. Harris

**P**ORT ANGELES, Wash.—In a far corner of the continental U.S., amid the salty air and green-carpeted mountains of the Pacific Northwest, lies a unique place with an unparalleled record of political precision.

Clallam County, Washington, which takes its name from its Indigenous peoples, has voted for the winner in every presidential election since 1980. If you go back more than 100 years, to 1920, the losing candidate has carried the county just twice; the last time was nearly half a century ago.

That's a streak unmatched by more than 3,000 other counties in America and lends a certain weight to views expressed in this political bellwether—which, despite its physical remove, reflect the passions and polarization that make this presidential race among the most contentious in modern history.

Good luck trying to figure out who wins the White House in November.

Neither Donald Trump nor Kamala Harris appears to be running away with the contest here. In dozens of interviews across this lush slice of the Olympic Peninsula, support for the two was just about evenly split. Events that once might have given someone pause or pried loose a shaky partisan or two—the attempted assassination of Trump, Harris' strong debate performance—have evidently passed with nary a ripple.

Voters weren't just dug into their positions. Many couldn't fathom how anyone could possibly think any differently.

William Lewis didn't watch much of the Trump-Harris face-off. There was no point.

"I didn't learn anything I don't already know," he said of the few minutes he did tune in. "It was just the same stuff with both of them in the same room instead of different places."

Besides, Lewis already knows who he's voting for. He's a staunch Trump supporter.

Inflation keeps gnawing at his wallet, and there's no question in Lewis' mind it's become much tougher in the last few years just to get by—something he keenly felt as he headed into the supermarket in Forks, the sodden setting of the "Twilight" books and movies.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Beacon of hope

Hafa Adai/Tirow to the people of CNMI,

Today I write to you to advocate for a candidate who embodies the values of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the people of our great Commonwealth. Mrs. Kimberlyn King-Hinds is not just a name on the ballot; she is a beacon of hope for those seeking representation at the highest levels of government.

With a background in collaborating with key government agencies such as Department of Defense, Department of Transportation, Office of Interior, and many more agencies. Mrs. Kimberlyn King-Hinds brings a wealth of experience and insights to the table. Her connection in Washington, D.C., are not merely superficial; they represent a network of individuals committed to making positive change in the lives of everyday citizens.

I urge each and every one of you to consider the impact of your vote in the upcoming election. By casting your ballot in support of Mrs. Kimberlyn King-Hinds, you are not only endorsing a candidate; you are endorsing a vision of a brighter future for our community. Together, we can ensure that our voices are heard, our needs are met and our concerns are addressed at the national level.

I ask for your trust, your support, and your confidence in Mrs. Kimberlyn King-Hinds as the next U.S. delegate. Let us join hands in solidarity and unity as we level up for a better tomorrow.

Please vote for Mrs. Kimberlyn King-Hinds and all Republican candidates

Thank you and God bless you all!

**Christopher S. Tenorio**

*Airport Road*

"Anybody that doesn't see that, I don't know what they're looking at," the 73-year-old retiree, a former heavy equipment mechanic, said beneath a glowering sky.

Jeanne Viramonte, a fellow independent, agreed with Lewis on one thing: She thought the debate was pretty much a waste of time. But only because she can't stand the sight of the GOP nominee.

"I've followed him since he was on TV," she said, scoffing at Trump's star turn on "The Apprentice."

"His views on women are horrible," said Viramonte, 74, a Harris backer who runs the espresso shop on the Quileute Indian Reservation in La Push. "So, no, I'm not going to watch him. I'm not going to vote for him."

"Anybody that votes for Trump," Viramonte added, "must be stupid."

Like much of the Pacific Northwest, Clallam County has been buffeted by far-reaching economic change.

Logging was once the primary industry, along with fishing and agriculture. But tougher environmental laws and decreased demand caused those extraction industries to dwindle over recent decades, chasing off many good-paying, working-class jobs.

Today, the county, home to about 80,000 residents, relies heavily on services and a burgeoning tourist trade.

Ferries chug several times a day between Port Angeles' artsy downtown and Victoria, British Columbia, about a 90-minute ride across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Olympic National Park lures roughly 3 million visitors a year to its emerald pathways. In Forks, a thriving commerce has grown up around the "Twilight" saga, drawing a steady stream of visitors to wander where its fictional werewolves and vampires roam.

Demographically, the county is hardly a mirror of America or, for that matter, the rest of Washington state. It is overwhelming white, though the Latino population has grown some in recent years and the Native American population, at 6%, is higher than the national average. The county's residents tend to be older and less well-off than the state and nation as a whole.

The secret of Clallam County's bellwether status apparently lies in the rough political balance among its three small population centers.

Democrats tend to fare best in Port Angeles and nearby Sequim, located in the county's less-rainy eastern half. Forks and a smattering of tiny coastal communities—set off by themselves down a long and winding two-lane road—lean to the right. (The reservation outside Forks remains a Democratic stronghold. Landslide support there for President Obama was key to his narrow 2012 victory in the county, which kept its presidential-picking streak alive.)

Washington state does not register voters by party, so Clallam County's exact partisan makeup is unclear. But the voting pattern—in the last 11 elections it's gone Republican six times and Democratic five—suggests a willingness to look past partisan labels.

"There's a far amount of distrust of both political parties and what kind of nonsense they're trying to sell us," said Sam Grello, the 37-year-old head of the Port Angeles Waterfront District, a business improvement group. (Locals are particularly proud of the many murals, depicting natural and historical scenes, that dot the area.)

"The bottom line is ultimately who will help our community the most," Grello went on. "Are you willing to look at what the problems are and deal with them? Or are you an ideologue? Do ideas or people come first?"

He cited a \$35-million economic development grant the Olympic Peninsula received this summer under the CHIPS and Science Act, a Biden administration initiative to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign manufacturing. That's the kind of tangible benefit Grello has in mind.

A political independent, he planned to vote, not very enthusiastically, for Joe Biden. Now that the president has exited the race, Grello is much more excited about supporting Harris—especially after watching her debate Trump.

"I won't be embarrassed to have her as president," Grello said. "I won't have to think about her so much. I want to be able to focus on my job, and not worry about the president doing theirs."

Such lies and baseless speculation are incredibly irresponsible. It's a lack of judgment that those on the campaign trail should wholly reject rather than emulate, and the sort of talk that could make a perilous situation far worse.

We can be thankful that those who represent Virginia, and many of those who seek elected office this year, have responded thoughtfully to these events, including this week after the incident in Florida. All Americans should be thankful that Trump

**By MARK Z. BARABAK**

Los Angeles Times

*Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, focusing on politics in California and the West.*



For the last several decades, a changing cast of locals has met once a week at the Port Angeles Senior & Community Center to discuss issues and weigh current events. Recently, 18 of them gathered in an airy second-floor conference room to talk about Trump vs. Harris.

They ranged in age from 16 to nearly 90, with the majority being retirees. (The youngest in attendance, high school sophomore Aiden Jugueta, can't vote but said he would urge his parents to support Robert F. Kennedy Jr., since Trump is unlikely to carry Washington state.)

The differences were stark and—save for the occasional groan, eye roll or sarcastic snicker—politely received.

Democrats were thrilled at the switch atop their presidential ticket. "We were just desolate" after Biden's leaden debate performance, said Donna Peterson, 65. "After that, this [debate] was so refreshing, so invigorating. I mean, [Harris] cleaned his clock."

"She's intelligent," Judy Wagner, 78, put in, "and you can just see the contrast" with Trump.

For their part, Republicans ascribed a long list of ills to Biden and his vice president: crime, unchecked immigration, declining educational standards.

"I don't go out to restaurants like I used to. It's way too expensive," said Pam Blakeman, 72, who leads the Clallam County Republican Party. "I used to walk all over, wherever. I don't anymore. My guard is up."

"I think they're spending money on programs that are just bankrupting our country, like student loans," Kim Butler, 66, said of the Biden administration. "They have no authority. ... They're just trying to buy votes."

The nation has gone horribly off track, some asserted, with the national debt skyrocketing and inflation wringing Americans dry. No, others insisted, for the first time there's someone in the Oval Office who is seriously addressing climate change and has set to work rebuilding the country's decaying infrastructure.

Undocumented immigrants are overrunning the country, some claimed, ripping off taxpayers. No, they're hardworking people, others maintained, who've come for jobs no American would deign to do.

Trump is slimy. Harris is slippery.

And on.

There was not a single undecided voter seated around the large, wood grain table and only one person who planned to switch after voting for the other party's candidate four years ago.

Ed McGuire, 72, twice backed Trump for president but plans to cast his ballot for Harris this November.

"I was a first-class idiot that got brainwashed by Rush Limbaugh," said the political independent. Trump, McGuire continued, is evil, corrupt, a liar, a whiner and a convicted felon who may eventually go to prison. "He's not a good person," McGuire concluded. "I'm glad he's not my next-door neighbor, or I'd be really telling him off."

That got some laughs.

After about an hour or so, as the discussion began winding down, 65-year-old David Fox relayed a voicemail he'd gotten from two regulars, Ileanna and Mike. The couple had to miss the meeting because of an appointment, but happily reported seeing an abundance of Harris signs on their 80-mile drive to Seattle.

Hopefully, Fox said, that augurs well for the vice president in November. And, he noted, if Harris wins the White House and pulls off a victory here that will extend Clallam County's political bellwether status for another election cycle.

That made Democrats around the table smile.

again avoided serious injury this weekend.






There are deeply troubled individuals in this country who need guidance away from violence and back to the realm of respectful, honest debate. They are smoldering with rage, and those worthy of our trust—and of our vote—will dampen those embers with water rather than dousing them with gasoline.

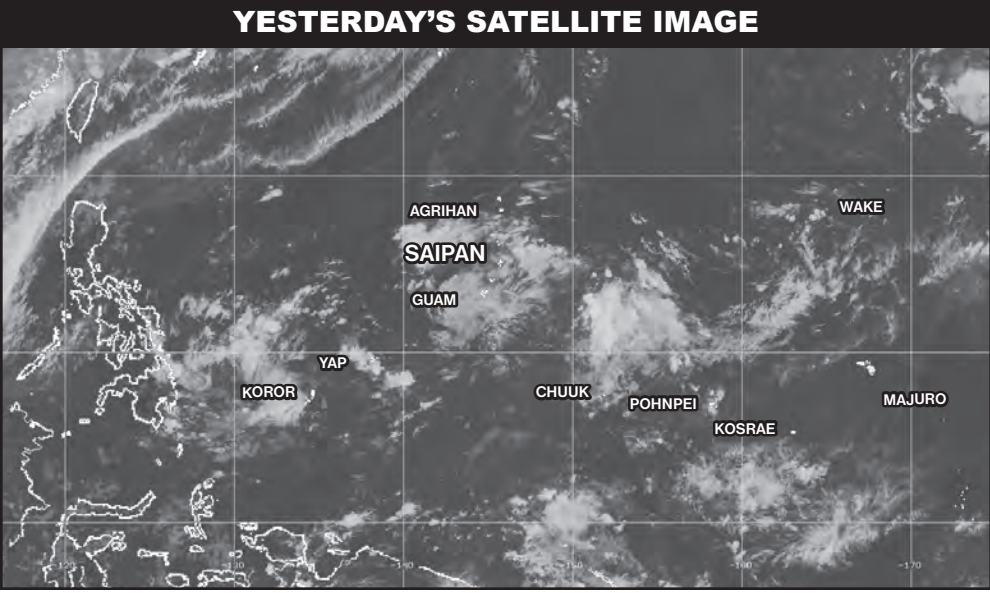
## RESTRAINT

From page 6

the suspect in Florida. He said this even as his hateful attacks on Haitian immigrants—which he admitted on Sunday were fabricated—inspired bomb threats that paralyzed the town of Springfield, Ohio.

# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming north around 10 mph after midnight.		Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 6:44 AM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 , 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

he forecast was left in good standing last night, so only minor updates were needed. A passing trough has flared up convection in the region. Showers as of this writing were light with a few areas that make get a short-lived heavier shower. Lightning has been observed with these showers. The cloud tops are warming which suggests that the showers are in the final stages of their life cycle.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	85° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Fair	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Fair	87° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:04 PM	11:24 PM
Wednesday	-	1:03	-
Thursday	12:22 AM	1:56 PM	-
Friday	1:20 AM	2:44 PM	-
Saturday	2:15 AM	3:27 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Beijing	Fair	74° / 50°	
Hong Kong	Light Rain Shower	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 72°	
London	Sunny	66° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 60°	
Manila	Fair	92° / 72°	
Melbourne	Windy	79° / 52°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	74° / 63°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 71°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	68° / 45°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 64°	
Rome	Sunny	75° / 54°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 67°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 54°	
Seoul	Sunny	72° / 60°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	80° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	75° / 67°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:27 AM	Low Tide	-0.13	
2:15 PM	High Tide	1.73	
7:11 PM	Low Tide	1.38	
11:27 PM	High Tide	1.70	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18				1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# NMC students elect new student government officers

Students of Northern Marianas College have made their voices heard by recently electing new officers to the college's student government body, the Associated Students of NMC.

The new officers are Bonnie Gio Sagana, president; Maria Daniella Sablan, vice president; Xinyi "Rain" Ni, secretary; Richard R. Baleares, treasurer; and senators Andrielle Coloma, Remedio "Bedu" Dela Cruz, and Jude D. Litlulumar.

For Sagana, this year marks his third consecutive election to ASNMC, and notably, it is his second term as ASNMC president. When reflecting on his decision to run for another term, Sagana emphasized his commitment to the student population served by ASNMC.

"I have not lost any passion for being a student-centric leader and have actually gained more love for serving my community," Sagana said. "The reason why I ran for ASNMC for my third year was because I felt a sense of connection with the population I was serving. I have seen the amount of success that many students are able to achieve even without support, but I know how important it is to have that voice in a student leader to be able to feel represented in the bigger picture."

In addition to leading NMC's student government body, Sagana is also the president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for

this academic year.

ASNMC's newly elected vice president, Sablan, is currently in her second year at NMC, pursuing an associate degree in Business with a focus on Computer Applications.

"I decided to run for student government because I deeply value the pride of being a PROA and am devoted to upholding the values of what makes a PROA," said Sablan.

Alongside Sagana, Sablan is an officer of PTK, serving as Public Relations secretary. Additionally, she is the public information officer for the NMC Environmental Natural Resource Organization Club.

"My passion for our college drives me to be a voice for our student body. I firmly believe that every student deserves to be heard, and my commitment is to ensure that happens. My goal is to foster a student government that reflects and supports our diverse voices and needs," said Sablan.

She added, "I am committed to giving my all in return. This is just the start of my journey, and I am eager to collaborate with other ASNMC officers to make a positive impact."

Serving as ASNMC's newly elected secretary, Ni is a second-year student pursuing an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts with an emphasis on Education. For Ni, student leadership is more than just a title; it is her way of connecting across languages.

"Being actively involved has always been more than just a passion for me; it's been

a way to connect, grow, and give back. Even when I barely spoke English in elementary school, I chose to run for STUCO because I believed in the power of student voices," said Ni.

She added, "Over the years, I've held various leadership roles, each one shaping me and deepening my commitment to making a difference. Now, as I continue that journey at NMC, I'm eager to bring my unique perspective, voice, and energy to contribute meaningfully to our community."

Looking forward to this year's collaboration between the newly elected officers, Ni is excited about the teamwork ahead.

"This role isn't just about representation; it's about collaboration, service, and making an impact. I'm excited to work alongside the ASNMC team to make this school year memorable, ensuring that every voice is heard and every student feels included."

Majoring in Business Management, newly elected ASNMC treasurer Baleares' passion for leadership inspired him to join the college's student government body.

"I decided to run for ASNMC because I'm passionate about leadership and want to contribute to our campus community in a meaningful way," said Baleares.

Before joining student government, Baleares held various leadership roles in multiple organizations, serving as director and president.

"I've gained valuable ex-



From left, Xinyi "Rain" Ni, Jude D. Litlulumar, Andrielle Coloma, Richard R. Baleares, Bonnie Gio Sagana, Remedio "Bedu" Dela Cruz, and Maria Daniella Sablan.

perience through my previous roles, notably in the Rotaract Club of Saipan, which included three consecutive terms as President. I believe these experiences have equipped me to help make a positive impact on our students, campus, and school," said Baleares.

Alongside Sagana and Sablan, Baleares is an officer for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, serving as vice president. He also expressed gratitude to those who supported his decision to run for ASNMC.

"I'd like to thank ASNMC & PTK president Bonnie Gio Sagana for encouraging me to run, and former ASNMC vice president and Rotaract Saipan secretary Jefferson Cunanan for sharing his insights. I'm also grateful to my friends, especially Brianna Hunter, Brent Espineda, Troy Rosimo, and Dan Salde for their advice

and support, as well as everyone I've met through Rotaract and Rotary on Saipan, Guam, Japan, and Taiwan."

Newly elected ASNMC senator Coloma is pursuing her Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. She is a Proa Pathways scholar in cohort 2B and is set to be inducted into PTK.

"I wanted to share the voices of NMC students and help make decisions that directly impact us while representing our school," said Coloma.

Looking forward to the future of ASNMC, Coloma is excited about working with familiar faces in the new officer team.

"When I heard about the outcome of this election, I was ecstatic to be part of the team. I've worked with some of these people separately in the past, and I'm so grateful to now be working with them as one," she said.

Dela Cruz, another newly elected ASNMC senator, is

pursuing an Associate in Liberal Arts. In the final year of her program, Dela Cruz wanted to contribute to the campus community before graduating and leaving the island.

"I ran for student government because it seemed like an amazing opportunity to take before leaving home. It's something I'm familiar with, and helping NMC at a deeper level was something I wanted to pursue. I wanted to help our students and ensure their voices are heard," said Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz is also a Proa Pathways scholar alongside Coloma in cohort 2B and will soon be inducted into PTK.

Litlulumar, majoring in Natural Resource Management, is one of the three newly elected ASNMC senators. Like his peers, Litlulumar wanted to give back to the college community before graduating and transferring to Portland State University.

"I ran for student government because it's my last year at NMC, and I wanted a chance to contribute more to the school and help plan events that students will enjoy and benefit from," said Litlulumar.

In addition to his role as ASNMC senator, Litlulumar is an active campus member, participating in the NMC ENRO Club, serving as secretary for NMC's Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences, and being part of cohort 2B of the Proa Pathways Scholars. He is also set to be inducted into PTK. **(PR)**

## FROM BIDEN'S INVESTING IN AMERICA AGENDA

# OIA awards \$2.5M to enhance biosecurity, ecosystem restoration in US territories

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced \$2,526,429 in Fiscal Year 2024 funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda that will provide the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands with vital biosecurity training opportunities and projects that improve island and coastal ecosystem resilience. Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor made the announcement today during a Communities in Action: Building a Better Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands event at the White House.

"Funds provided under the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continue to make significant investments in the territories," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Cantor.

"Bipartisan Infrastructure Law projects awarded will enhance biosecurity and strengthen efforts to mitigate the impacts of invasive species, and bolster ecosystem resilience by restoring natural processes and using nature-based solutions to protect coastal, coral, and island ecosystems in our Pacific and Caribbean territories."

The funding comes from Phase 3 of the Interior Department's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded Ecosystem Restoration Program. Through President Biden's the Investing in America agenda, the Department is stewarding an overall \$2 billion over five years in new investments to put people to work restoring our nation's lands and waters. To guide these historic investments, and in support of the President's America the Beautiful initiative, the Department unveiled the Restoration and Resilience Framework to cata-

lyze coordination and drive transformational outcomes across new and existing restoration programs and initiatives.

These grants are designed to strengthen local capacity in biosecurity measures, promote the protection and restoration of biologically rich and culturally significant island and coastal ecosystems, and enhance community resilience against invasive species and environmental degradation. The selected projects encompass a range of activities aimed at educating stakeholders, outreach to youth, protecting shorelines and infrastructure from erosion and storms and restoring native ecosystem functions.

The current projects and programs awarded with FY2024 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds include:

### Enhancing Biosecurity and Mitigating Invasive

### Species Impacts

■ \$497,846 to the Government of Guam to establish a Marine Biosecurity Coordinator position and develop a surveillance and response plan for marine invasive species in Apra Harbor.

■ \$422,162 to the American Samoa Government for the development of fumigation and incineration capacity on-island to address critical biosecurity gaps. Funds will also support on-island biosecurity training, featuring national and international experts.

■ \$71,417 to the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources for on-island biosecurity training in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

■ \$50,000 to the University of Guam for on-island biosecurity training and a workshop focused on emergency response planning and invasive species management.

■ \$48,866 will be provid-

ed for invasive species experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide biosecurity training to the territories.

### Environmental Restoration Initiatives

The following projects will be used to strengthen and restore coral reef eco-systems which are critical to protect from storm surge, mitigate erosion, food security and the tourism industry.

■ \$999,431 to Coral Restoration Foundation, Inc. to expand coral restoration efforts on St. Croix in the USVI.

■ \$406,707 to The Nature Conservancy to restore historically mined coral reefs on St. Croix in the USVI.

■ \$30,000 to the Caribbean Oceanic Restoration and Education Foundation for coral nursery operations and community engagement initiatives.

Applications for FY2024 BIL funding may still be submitted for consideration through Grants.gov (assistance listing #15.875) until October 31, 2024. The final awards for FY2024 BIL funding will be announced later this year.

More information about these and other funding provided to the Insular Areas through OIA may be found at [www.doi.gov/oia](http://www.doi.gov/oia).

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carries out the secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. **(PR)**

# World

## Hezbollah hits back with rockets as it declares 'open-ended battle' with Israel

**NAHARIYA, Israel (AP)**—Hezbollah fired over 100 rockets early Sunday across northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon. A Hezbollah leader declared an “open-ended battle” was underway as both sides appeared to be spiraling closer toward all-out war.

The overnight rocket barrage was in response to Israeli attacks in Lebanon that have killed dozens, including a veteran Hezbollah commander, and an unprecedented attack targeting the group’s communications devices. Air raid sirens across northern Israel sent hundreds of thousands of people scrambling into shelters.

One struck near a residential building in Kiryat Bialik, a city near Haifa, wounding at least three people and setting buildings and cars ablaze. Israel’s Magen David Adom rescue service said four people were wounded.

Avi Vazana raced to a shelter with his wife and 9-month-old baby before



Israeli security and rescue forces work at the site hit by a rocket fired from Lebanon, in Kiryat Bialik, northern Israel, on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

he heard the rocket hitting. Then he went back outside to see if anyone was hurt.

“I ran without shoes, without a shirt, only with pants. I ran to this house when everything was still on fire to try to find if there are other people,” he said.

Lebanon’s Health Ministry said three people were killed and four wounded in Israeli strikes near the border, without saying whether they were civilians or combatants.

The rocket attacks followed an Israeli airstrike Friday in Beirut that killed at least 45

people, including Ibrahim Akil, one of Hezbollah’s top leaders, several other fighters, and women and children.

Hezbollah was already reeling from a sophisticated attack that caused thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies to explode just days

earlier. But it faces a difficult balance of stretching the rules of engagement by hitting deeper into Israel, while at the same time trying to avoid large-scale attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure that could trigger a full-scale war that it would rather not start and take the blame for.

Hezbollah’s deputy leader Naim Kassem said Sunday’s rocket attack was just the beginning of what’s now an “open-ended battle” with Israel.

“We admit that we are pained. We are humans. But as we are pained—you will also be pained,” Kassem said at Akil’s funeral. He vowed Hezbollah will continue military operations against Israel in support of Gaza but also warned of unexpected attacks “from outside the box,” pointing to rockets fired deeper into Israel.

Late Sunday night, Hez-

bollah announced a series of strikes on military sites in northern Israel with missiles and artillery shelling. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties or damages.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would take whatever action was necessary to restore security in the north and allow people to return to their homes.

“No country can accept the wanton rocketing of its cities. We can’t accept it either,” he said.

Other funerals were held Sunday for those killed in the airstrike. Seven people, including three women and two children, were buried in the southern Lebanese town of Mays al-Jabal, where Christian Lebanese lawmaker Melhem Khalaf said Israel “relies on the laws of the jungle instead international conventions, especially with protecting civilians.”

## 21 wounded in Russian strikes that hit apartment buildings in Kharkiv

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—Russia launched new strikes in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv that hit high-rise apartment buildings, leaving at least 21 wounded in a second consecutive nighttime attack, authorities said.

The bombs fell Saturday night on the district of Shevchenkivsky, north of the center of Kharkiv, which is the second-largest Ukrainian city, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Residential buildings sustained varying degrees of damage, including 16- and nine-story buildings, he added. Kharkiv’s city council said that 18 buildings were damaged.

The wounded included an 8-year-old child, according to Syniehubov and Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov. Terekhov said that 60 residents were evacuated from one of the buildings, a high-rise that was hit directly.

Kharkiv has been a frequent target of Russian attacks since Moscow launched its all-out invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February 2022. On late Friday, 15 people, including children ages 10 and 12, were wounded when Russian airstrikes hit three Kharkiv neighborhoods, Terekhov said.

Ukrainian officials said that KAB-type aerial glide bombs—a retrofitted Soviet weapon that has for months laid waste to eastern Ukrain

—were used in both attacks.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the strike and urged Kyiv’s Western allies to send more weapons to help it “protect lives and ensure safety.”

“Ukraine needs full long-range capabilities, and we are working to convince our partners of this,” Zelenskyy said on X, as he prepared to kick off a busy week in the United States shoring up support for Kyiv in the war.

And Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov said Sunday that Kyiv was in talks with partners in Europe to secure Swedish-made Gripen and European Eurofighter Typhoon jets. Umerov said that commitments were already in place for deliveries of U.S.-made F-16s and French Mirages.

Russia also launched 80 Shahed drones and two missiles at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, the Ukrainian air force said. Ukrainian defenses shot down 71 drones, and another six were lost on location because of electronic warfare countermeasures, the statement said.

Farther south, a 12-year-old girl and a woman died after a Russian drone struck a passenger car in the city of Nikopol, local Gov. Serhii Lysak reported. Two others, including a 4-year-old child, suffered wounds.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' scares off 'Transformers' for third week as box office No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a three-peat for "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice."

The Tim Burton legacy sequel to his 1988 horror comedy topped the North American box office charts for the third straight weekend with \$26 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It edged out the animated new release "Transformers: One," which brought in \$25 million. The Optimus Prime origin story from Paramount Pictures featuring the voices of Chris Hemsworth, Brian Tyree Henry and Scarlett Johansson earned \$39 million globally.

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," a Warner Bros. release with Michael Keaton and Winona



General atmosphere at the premiere of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, in London.

Ryder returning as stars, has earned more than \$226 million domestically in its three weeks after a monster opening of \$110 million—the third best of the year—and a second weekend of \$51.6 million. It

has now earned \$329.8 million globally.

Third place went to the James McAvoy horror "Speak No Evil," which came in at \$5.9 million in its second week for a total of \$21.5 million.

But for "Beetlejuice," the box office was in a quiet phase that is expected to break when "Joker: Folie à Deux" dances its way onto the big screen on Oct. 4.

"September has been a bit of a sleepy month and with around 47% of the revenue being generated by this single film," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "Fortunately, October is on track to deliver interesting blockbusters."

The year's second-highest grosser "Deadpool & Wolverine" remained in the top 5 in its ninth weekend with another \$3.9 million and a domestic

- 1. "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," \$26 million.
- 2. "Transformers One," \$25 million.
- 3. "Speak No Evil," \$5.9 million.
- 4. "Never Let Go," \$4.5 million.
- 5. "Deadpool & Wolverine," \$3.9 million.
- 6. "The Substance," \$3.1 million.
- 7. "Am I Racist?," \$2.5 million.
- 8. "Reagan," \$1.7 million.
- 9. "JUNG KOOK: I AM STILL," \$1.4 million.
- 10. "Alien Romulus," \$1.3 million.

total of \$627 million. Only Pixar's "Inside Out 2" has earned more.

The Demi Moore-starring, Coralie Fargeat-directed body horror "The Substance," which made a splash at the Cannes Film Festival, brought in \$3.1 million on limited screens in its first weekend for the sixth spot.

The Daily Wire movie "Am I Racist?" — in which conservative columnist Matt Walsh goes undercover as a "DEI trainee"—stayed in the top 10 after a fourth place finish last week, earning \$2.9 million for seventh place and a two-week total of \$9 million.

John Mulaney, Olivia Munn have second child, daughter named Méi

Comedian John Mulaney and actor Olivia Munn now have a second child, a daughter named Méi June Mulaney.

Munn said in an Instagram post Sunday that the girl was born via a surrogate on Thursday.

"I had so many profound

emotions about not being able to carry my daughter," Munn said in the post that included a photo of the parents and baby together on a hospital bed. "When I first met our gestational surrogate we spoke mother to mother. She showed me so much grace and under-

standing, I knew I had found a real-life angel. Words cannot express my gratitude that she kept our baby safe for 9 months and made our dreams come true."

Munn added that "Méi (pronounced may) means plum in Chinese."

Mulaney, 42, and Munn, 44, who also share a 2-year-old son, married in July.

Munn earlier this year revealed that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. In an interview with People in March, Munn said Mulaney was by her side throughout and said it would have "felt like climbing an iceberg without him."

The two began dating in 2021 and welcomed their son, Malcolm, that November. (AP)



John Mulaney, left, and Olivia Munn arrive at the Governors Awards, Jan. 9, 2024, at the Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles.

Kate, the Princess of Wales, makes first public appearance after cancer treatment

LONDON (AP)—Kate, the Princess of Wales, made her first public appearance Sunday since she announced she had completed chemotherapy and would return to some public duties.

Kate and her husband, Prince William, were seen Sunday attending church with King Charles III and Queen Camilla near their royal Balmoral estate in Scotland.

Kate, 42, announced on Sept. 9 that she had completed treatment six months after revealing she had an undisclosed type of cancer. Her announcement came six weeks after Buckingham Palace announced that the king was being treated for cancer.

In a video announcing her progress, she said the path to full recovery would be long



This photo provided by Kensington Palace on Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, shows Kate, Princess of Wales and Prince William with their children Prince George, right, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, left.

and she would take it day by day. She said she would undertake some limited engagements through the end of the year.

While she stepped away from most public duties during her treatment, Kate made

two appearances earlier this year. First, during the king's birthday parade in June, known as Trooping the Colour, and most recently during the men's final at Wimbledon in July, where she received a standing ovation.

Sister-in-law's behavior is increasingly unhinged

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law "Bethany" has been diagnosed with PTSD from her military service. For the past 15 years, Bethany has picked fights with my wife, her sister, over anything and everything. She feels my wife "changed" after she married me.

Bethany didn't like how we treated their father after we moved in four years ago so we could take care of him. (He recently passed.) She also doesn't like that we are living in the house that was her childhood home. She starts fights that escalate into screaming matches, while making herself out as the victim. She keeps reminding us that she has PTSD. My wife screams, cries and sobs during these conversations.

My wife won't cut Bethany off because they're siblings, but I'm sick and tired of seeing her in tears trying to figure out what she did wrong. Whenever Bethany comes to visit, she ends up staying at our house. The fights are unbearable. I have begged and pleaded for my wife to cut her off. It's affecting me now. Any advice would be appreciated.

POWERLESS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR POWERLESS: Please share this with your wife. Has it not occurred to her that she has done NOTHING wrong, and that Bethany's rages may have less to do with PTSD than plain old jealousy? By now, the two of you must

have realized that the price of having a relationship with her sister is too high. That your wife would allow herself to be repeatedly abused this way mystifies me.

When Bethany starts up again, your wife should hang up the phone. If Bethany shows up and can't control herself, she should not be allowed in. If she's already in, she should be told to leave immediately. Until the two of you draw a firm line, nothing will change, and it could very well destroy your marriage.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After 28 years, I found out my husband, "Jerry," was having an affair. While we were in the middle of the divorce, my nephew was getting married, and I told Jerry that, considering the circumstances, it was improper for him to go. I also told him that although he was denying everything and telling our daughters he had done nothing, my family knew everything.

Jerry insisted on going, but I told him he would NOT be in family pictures and wasn't invited to the reception. Abby, he insisted on sitting in the pew with our daughters and me, and even tried to walk my mother in. Was what he did in bad taste and improper etiquette? To me, it felt like another slap in the face.

DIVORCED BUT NOT DONE

DEAR ABBY  
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DIVORCED: That your almost-ex-husband would force his way into the wedding and sit with you and your daughters was gross bad manners. Was he invited by your nephew's family? If he wasn't, I hope he didn't show up uninvited to the reception, which could have caused a major disruption. I think you will be well rid of this man.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Innocent one  
5 Pvt.'s superior  
8 Throat clearer  
12 Corp. bigwig  
13 Knee protector  
14 Modern money  
15 Some hair sprays  
17 Baseball stats  
18 Last (Abbr.)  
19 ISP giant  
20 Schnoz-zes  
21 "Bow-wow!"  
22 Owns  
23 Greek sorcer-ess  
26 "Holy cow!"  
30 Always  
31 Pallid  
32 Oaxaca water  
33 Time between flights  
35 "Ivanhoe" novelist

**DOWN**

1 Boyfriend  
2 Skater's leap  
3 Ernie's pal  
4 Green prefix  
5 Parody  
6 Chutzpah  
7 QB stats  
8 High-flying industry  
9 Centers  
10 Toledo's lake  
11 Rolling stone's lack  
16 Singer Evans  
20 Dundee denial (Abbr.)  
21 "Sweet Emotion" rock band  
22 Chick's mom  
23 Director Brooks  
24 Actress Mendes  
25 Susan of "L.A. Law"  
26 Honey holder  
27 Swelled head  
28 Boring routine  
29 Perched  
31 Entangle-ment  
34 Compete  
35 Missile shelter  
37 Urban oases  
38 Imperfec-tion  
39 Classic Kinks song  
40 Big fusses  
41 Ray of light  
42 Com-manded  
43 Tempora-ry calm  
44 Texter's sign-off  
46 Fine, at NASA  
47 Petty peeve

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 9-24**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Spencer Treat Clark, 37; Erin Chambers, 45; Nia Vardalos, 62; Kevin Sorbo, 66.

**Happy Birthday:** Mixed emotions will lead you astray. Sum up how you feel and apply practical solutions to anything holding you back or confusing you. You may not welcome change, but if it will stabilize your health, wealth or emotional well-being, it's worthwhile. Put your energy where it counts, and everything else will fall into place. Laughter and love are your path to happiness. Your numbers are 2, 14, 26, 33, 39, 42, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Think before you act. Emotional situations will escalate quickly, turning a molehill into a mountain before you can change your tune if you aren't careful. Broaden your awareness, question information and verify facts, which will open doors to truth, honesty and good decisions. \*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Do what you can to bring about positive change. Embrace what makes you feel good about yourself and what you can do to help others. Let empathy and compassion lead the way, and the response and help you receive will lead to achieving your goal. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Optimism is a beautiful characteristic to bolster. However, it requires patience, facts and the ability to initiate what you want to pursue. All talk and no action will leave you standing still. It's up to you to open the door to the possibilities within reach. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Pick up the pace and set your sights on what matters to you. How you approach your objective will significantly affect the outcome and your reputation. Trust your instincts and follow through

with your plans, regardless of who decides to help and who doesn't. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Size up situations and make decisions. Taking too long to ponder things you cannot change or don't want to be a part of will waste valuable time that you should spend pursuing positive ventures. Be the one to find solutions and to make a difference. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Be open, learn all you can and make choices conducive to lifestyle improvements and achieving a stable and secure position at work and home. Use your imagination, compromise and avoid letting excess seep into your plans. Participate in debates that encourage truth and exciting connections. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Take a deep breath and put ego and emotions aside. It's time to do what's best for you and to let go of what's dragging you down. An aggressive move or lifestyle change may daunt you, but it will inevitably kickstart your efforts to forge ahead. \*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Pamper yourself, rejuvenate and participate in something that sparks your imagination and offers a unique perspective and awareness of what's possible. Time is on your side; evaluate prospects, and you'll make better choices. Networking and social events will offer insight into what you want to pursue. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Stay focused on what's at stake and how to get things done on time and to your satisfaction. Refuse to let anyone interfere or lead you astray. A deal someone hypes will fall short of your expectations. Fend for yourself and pat yourself on the back. \*\*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Dream on and turn your hopes and wishes into a reality. Please don't settle for less than what you want or give in to someone only looking out for themselves. Make domestic changes that will help you finish what you start and encourage you to believe in yourself. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Opportunity begins with you. Consider what you want and make it happen. Participation is necessary if you want to reach your destination. Take the initiative to listen, assess what you hear and use suggestions and information that make you comfortable and capable of achieving your goal. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Let your feelings lead the way, and your actions speak for you. Don't be shy. Put your best foot forward, and you'll attract those who share your beliefs and can contribute to your success. Dismiss negativity and distance yourself from situations that hinder and hurt. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are resilient, sensitive and helpful. You are intelligent and proactive.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★ 9/24  
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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAVE A PIMM'S PUNCH

Solution: 7 letters

S T R A W B E R R Y T I U R F  
S P A R K L I N G T H G I L R  
Q U D N E L B I T T E R O O E  
U A M B E R M A K I E R S N S  
E X L M T U R N C C A E J E H  
E D L I E T I I L M O R Z P  
Z E I H M R D P E A Y E S O U  
E S Q C D E E L R L H P T R R  
H S U A R L A Y E C I E R F Y  
S E O E P R G M T S R A A S S  
I R R P E N O I E R R R I B U  
N T A G A N P E E L A E N R R  
R N N T A T N E G N U P E E T  
A I G D E L I C I O U S R H I  
G M E T S A T R E B M U C U C

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Amber, Apple, Bitter, Blend, Cheers, Cider, Citrus, Cucumber, Delicious, Dessert, Drink, Enjoy, Floral, Fresh, Frozen, Fruity, Garnish, Ginger Ale, Herbs, Lemonade, Light, Lime, Liquor, Mint, Orange, Party, Peach, Pear, Peel, Pitcher, Pungent, Recipe, Rosemary, Sips, Sparkling, Squeeze, Strainer, Strawberry, Summer, Syrup, Tangy, Tart, Taste  
Yesterday's Answer: Referee  
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# Darnold throws 4 TD's as undefeated Vikings overwhelm Texans



**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP) — Sam Darnold matched his career high with four touchdown passes, and the undefeated Minnesota Vikings used another dominant performance on defense to trounce C.J. Stroud and the Houston Texans 34-7 on Sunday.

Jonathan Greenard had three of the four sacks of Stroud, his former teammate, as the Vikings (3-0) intercepted the 2023 AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year twice while rattling the Texans (2-1) with their aggressive and unpredictable scheme—and the crowd noise that cranked up with each stop.

Darnold connected with Justin Jefferson and Aaron Jones for scores in the first quarter on third down plays inside the 10. In the second half, he delivered a touchdown to Jalen Nailor for the third straight game and got tight end Johnny Mundt one, too.

Jefferson had six catches for 81 yards and Jones rushed 19 times for 102 yards and caught five passes for 46 yards for the Vikings, who were a trendy pick for last place in the NFC North but have beaten back-to-back contenders to start their home slate against San Francisco and Houston.

**GIANTS 21, BROWNS 15 CLEVELAND** (AP)—Daniel Jones threw two touchdown passes to rookie Malik Nabers, the Giant's defensive players took turns sacking Deshaun Watson as New York held off Cleveland.

Jones completed 24 of 34 passes for 236 yards as the Giants (1-2) shook off a loss at Washington that prompted a week of criticism toward coach Brian Daboll.

It wasn't easy.

The Browns (1-2) rallied in the fourth after being dominated for three quarters and losing three offensive linemen to injuries.

**STEELERS 20, CHARGERS 10 PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Justin Fields threw for a touchdown and ran for another and Pittsburgh topped Los Angeles.

Pittsburgh improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2020 behind another efficient performance from Fields, who completed 25 of 32 passes for 245 yards, including a 55-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Austin III midway through the fourth quarter that broke it open.

Fields also added a 5-yard touchdown run and is quietly making a compelling case that he should be the starter even



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold (14) runs from Houston Texans defensive end Will Anderson Jr. (51) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, in Minneapolis.

after Russell Wilson's injured calf heals. Fields has played largely mistake-free through three games, though he did throw his first interception of the season on a tipped pass in the third quarter.

**PACKERS 30, TITANS 14 NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Malik Willis ran for a touchdown and threw for a score in his best performance in the NFL, leading Green Bay to a rout over Tennessee.

Willis not only won his second straight start subbing for Jordan Love, he got a sweet measure of revenge against the team that traded him to Green Bay (2-1) in August. Willis accounted for 134 of the Packers' 137 yards in the first quarter. He finished with 202 yards passing and 73 rushing.

Cornerback Jaire Alexander scored a touchdown on his first career pick-6 late in the first quarter, helping Green Bay jump out to a 17-7 lead after 15 minutes. The Packers led 20-7 at halftime and ultimately scored 20 straight points for a 27-7 advantage midway through the third, prompting a loud chant of "Go, Pack, Go!"

**BRONCOS 26, BUCCANEERS 7 TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Rookie Bo Nix ran for an early touchdown and Wil Lutz kicked four field goals to help Denver avoid starting 0-3 for the second straight season with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Nix completed 25 of 36 passes for 216 yards without an interception. The 12th overall pick in this year's NFL draft, however, still hasn't thrown for a TD through three games.

Denver's defense did its part in helping Nix rebound from struggling the previous two weeks, too, sacking Baker Mayfield seven times

and intercepting the Bucs quarterback once to set up a second-quarter touchdown. The Broncos (1-2) also turned away two Tampa Bay possessions in Denver territory in the fourth quarter, stopping one drive on downs and forcing a fumble on the other.

The three-time defending NFC South champion Bucs (2-1), looking to start a season with three consecutive victories for the first time since 2005, was limited to 223 yards total offense. Mayfield was 25 of 33 passing for 163 yards, including a 6-yard scoring throw to Chris Godwin in the second quarter.

**EAGLES 15, SAINTS 12 NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Saquon Barkley rushed for fourth-quarter touchdowns of 65 and 4 yards, and Philadelphia rebounded from a maddening late-game collapse six days earlier to beat New Orleans.

Barkley's shorter scoring run came with 1:01 left, one play after Dallas Goedert got free across the middle on third-and-16 for a 61-yard catch and run that gave him a career-high 170 yards on 10 receptions.

Eagles safety Reed Blankenship sealed the victory when he intercepted Derek Carr's pass over the middle with 48 seconds left, capping a banner performance by Philadelphia's defense against an offense that had scored an NFL-high 91 points during the regular season's first two weeks under new coordinator Klint Kubiak.

Coming off a 22-21 home loss to Atlanta on Monday night, the Eagles (2-1) did not allow a touchdown until Carr found Chris Olave for a 12-yard, go-ahead score with just more than two minutes left. That gave the Saints a 12-7 lead after a failed 2-point try.

**COLTS 21, BEARS 16 INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Jonathan Taylor had two touchdown runs and Trey Sermon added another as Indianapolis held on for a victory over Chicago.

Taylor ran 23 times for 110 yards as the Colts (1-2) avoided their first 0-3 start since 2021. Anthony Richardson completed 10 of 20 passes for 167 yards, but had two more interceptions.

Chicago (1-2) lost its second straight despite getting two offensive TDs—one more than its total in the first two weeks. Caleb Williams, this year's No. 1 overall draft pick, went 33 of 52 with 363 yards through the air—all season bests—and threw the first two TD passes of his NFL career. Williams also was intercepted twice.

The performances sure didn't win many style points.

Chicago and Indy combined for just 71 total yards in the first quarter and had five turnovers overall, and the league's two youngest starting quarterbacks each had passer ratings below 81.

**PANTHERS 36, RAIDERS 22 LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Andy Dalton gave the Panthers the quarterback play they've been sorely lacking, throwing for 319 yards and three touchdowns to lead Carolina past Las Vegas.

Promoted to the starting job in place of the ineffective Bryce Young, Dalton guided the Panthers (1-2) to their first win and moved to 4-0 lifetime against the Raiders.

Carolina, now 3-17 going back to last season, was outscored a combined 73-13 by the Saints and Chargers in the first two weeks before Coach Dave Canales benched Young, the No. 1 overall draft pick just a year ago, on Monday.

Dalton resembled the quarterback who earned the nickname "Red Rifle" in his prime more than a 36-year-old who last started in Week 3 of last season. He was sharp throughout, completing 26 of 37 passes and becoming the first NFL quarterback this season to post a 300-yard, three-TD performance. Dalton has thrown for 1,027 yards and 10 TDs in four career starts against the Raiders.

**SEAHAWKS 24, DOLPHINS 3 SEATTLE** (AP)—Geno Smith threw for 289 yards and a 71-yard touchdown to DK Metcalf, Zach Charbonnet rushed for two TDs, and Seattle beat Miami where the attention turned to another injury suffered by a Dolphins quarterback.

A week after losing Tua Tagovailoa to the third concussion in the past two years, the Dolphins watched Skylar Thompson suffer a chest injury in the second half, leaving Tim Boyle to try and lead the charge back from a 17-3 deficit.

Boyle was unable to direct a comeback and the Dolphins (1-2) were stuck back in a place of uncertainty about their QB situation.

Thompson was hurt in the third quarter, staying down after being shoved by Dre'Mont Jones following a pass to De'Von Achane. But the injury was likely suffered on the previous drive when Thompson was sacked by Tyrel Dodson and was hunched over at the midsection as he ran off the field.

**LIONS 20, CARDINALS 13 GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Jared Goff threw two touchdown passes, David Montgomery ran for 106 yards and a score and Detroit held on late to beat Arizona.

The Lions continued their recent dominance in the series, improving to 5-0-1 against the Cardinals since 2017. Detroit's defense kept Kyler Murray and Arizona out of the end zone in the second half, giving up just one field goal.

Goff completed his first 14 passes before an incompletion in the third quarter. It was his longest streak without an incompletion to start a game in his nine-year career and he finished 18 of 23 for 196 yards.

Detroit (2-1) took a 20-7 lead just before halftime on a well-executed hook-and-ladder play. Goff threw short to Amon-Ra St. Brown, who immediately lateraled to Jahmyr Gibbs, who dashed 20 yards for the touchdown. The Lions caught a break earlier in

the drive when Goff appeared to throw a pick-6, but officials ruled the play had been whistled dead just before the snap for the two-minute warning.

**RAVENS 28, COWBOYS 25 ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Derrick Henry ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns, Lamar Jackson accounted for two scores and Baltimore held on for a victory over Dallas.

The Ravens (1-2) scored touchdowns on their first two drives, running and throwing with ease while emphatically responding to the first 0-2 start since 2015 for a franchise coming off a trip to the AFC championship game.

The Cowboys (1-2) have allowed 120 points in their past three home games, including a 48-32 wild-card loss to Green Bay in January that ended Dallas' 16-game winning streak at AT&T Stadium.

Brandon Aubrey kicked a 65-yard field goal for the Cowboys, 1 yard shy of the NFL record from 2021 held by the kicker on the other sideline, Baltimore's Justin Tucker.

**RAMS 27, 49ERS 24 INGLEWOOD, Calif.** (AP)—Rookie Joshua Karty hit a 37-yard field goal with 2 seconds to play, and Los Angeles staged a spectacular late rally for a victory over San Francisco.

Kyren Williams rushed 4 yards for his third touchdown of the day with 1:50 left for the Rams (1-2), who came back from a 14-point deficit in the second half for their second straight win over San Francisco (1-2) after losing 10 of the NFC West archrivals' previous 12 meetings.

Jauan Jennings set career highs with 11 catches for 175 yards and three touchdowns for the 49ers, who blew a lead of at least 14 points for the first time since 2018.

**CHIEFS 22, FALCONS 17 ATLANTA** (AP)—Patrick Mahomes threw a pair of touchdown passes and Kansas City's defense made a couple of late stands to keep the Chiefs unbeaten with a 22-17 victory over the Falcons.

The two-time reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs have been far from perfect—Mahomes threw another interception—but they won their first three games by a combined 13 points.

Thank the defense for this one.

Coming off an upset victory at Philadelphia, the Falcons (1-2) had a couple of shots at the go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes.

# White Sox lose 120 games and tie record after falling to Padres



**SAN DIEGO**  
(AP) — The Chicago White Sox tied the post-

1900 MLB record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion New York Mets on Sunday when the San Diego Padres won 4-2 by rallying for three runs in the eighth inning, capped by Fernando Tatis Jr.'s towering home run.

The White Sox (36-120) had taken a 2-1 lead on home runs by Korey Lee and Miguel Vargas off Yu Darvish, but that lead quickly disappeared in the eighth.

This defeat came a day after the White Sox tied the American League record of 119 losses set by the 2003 Detroit Tigers.

The 1899 Cleveland Spiders hold the major league record for losses at 20-134.

## RED SOX 8, TWINS 1, 1ST GAME

## RED SOX 9, TWINS 3, 2ND GAME

**BOSTON** (AP)—Struggling Minnesota was swept in a split doubleheader against Boston, when Romy Gonzalez hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs in the nightcap to lead the Red Sox to a 9-3 victory.

Losing for the 13th time in 19 games, the Twins fell a game behind both Detroit and Kansas City for the AL's final two wild-card spots. They own the tiebreaker over both.

Minnesota (81-75) is just 11-22 since going 17 games over .500 on Aug. 17.

The Red Sox won for just the ninth time in 23 games to get back to .500 (78-78) after fading in the playoff chase. They're only 24-36 since the All-Star break.

## PIRATES 2, REDS 0

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Paul Skenes struck out nine and pitched two-hit ball through five innings, leading Pittsburgh to a win over Cincinnati.

Skenes (11-3) recorded his 16th game with seven or more strikeouts, surpassing Larry McWilliams (1983) for seventh-most by a Pirates starter in a season. In three starts against the Reds, the 22-year-old right-hander has allowed one earned run with 25 strikeouts in 17 innings.

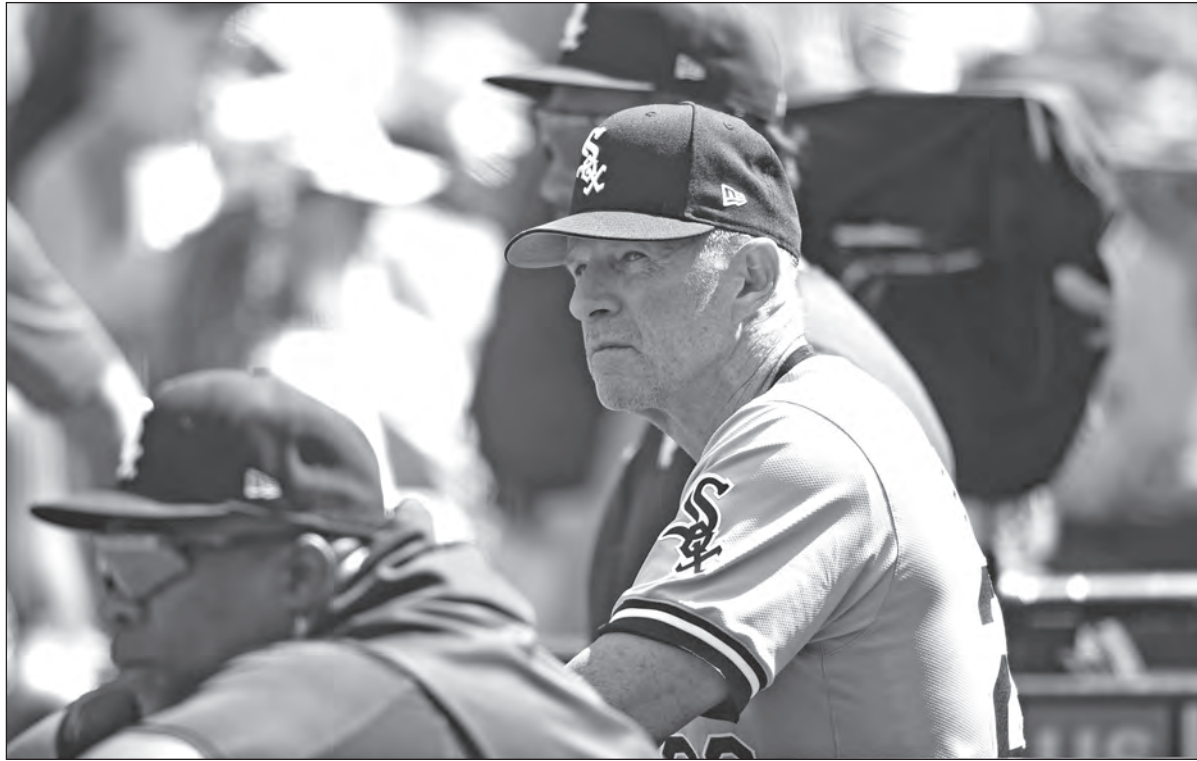
Skenes lowered his ERA to 1.99 on Sunday, the second-lowest through 22 career starts behind Steve Roger's 1.95 ERA in 1973-74 with the Montreal Expos.

## TIGERS 4, ORIOLES 3

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Kerry Carpenter homered twice, Parker Meadows made a home run-saving grab and surging Detroit moved into a tie for the second American League wild card with a victory over Baltimore.

Carpenter's third multi-home run game of the season ensured the Tigers their first winning season since 2016 as Detroit (82-74) moved into a tie with Kansas City (82-74) and a half-game in front of Minnesota (81-74) for the final AL wild card spot.

The Twins—who own the head-to-head tiebreak—could pull even with the Tigers in the second



Chicago White Sox bench coach Doug Sisson, right, looks on from the dugout during a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, in San Diego.

game of their double-header in Boston later Sunday.

## RAYS 4, BLUE JAYS 3

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** (AP)—Jonathan Aranda homered in a third straight game and Tampa Bay beat Toronto to complete a three-game sweep.

Aranda gave the Rays a 2-1 lead on his two-run drive against Zach Pop in the sixth inning. Aranda has connected for six of his 10 career homers against the Blue Jays.

Pinch hitter Christopher Morel had an seventh-inning sacrifice fly off Génesis Cabrera (3-3) before Brandon Lowe's solo homer in the eighth made it 4-2. Lowe has 20 homers this season.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. got the Blue Jays within 4-3 with a single for his third hit of the game in the ninth off Edwin Uceta, who recovered to get his fourth save.

## BRAVES 5, MARLINS 4

**MIAMI** (AP)—Michael Harris II tripled, singled and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Atlanta beats Miami.

Gio Urshela and Ozzie Albies homered while Matt Olson had two hits and an RBI for the Braves (85-71), who began Sunday two games behind the New York Mets for the third NL wild card.

Jorge Soler's infield single with the bases loaded against Declan Cronin (3-4) in the seventh scored Harris from third and put the Braves ahead.

Miami loaded the bases with no outs against Aaron Bummer in the bottom half when Otto López and Derek Hill singled and Nick Fortes reached on a sacrifice after Bummer threw to third on an unsuccessful force out attempt. Bummer struck out Xavier Edwards before Daysbel Hernández relieved and struck out Connor Norby and retired Jesús Sánchez on a lineout to right.

## RANGERS 6, MARINERS 5

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Marcus Semien's line single into the left field corner scored Leody Taveras

as Texas rallied from a five-run deficit in a walk-off win over Seattle.

Taveras had tied the score at 5-all with a solo homer in the seventh inning and finished with three hits — all from the sixth inning onward.

The Mariners built a 5-0 lead on Dylan Moore's RBI single in the second inning, Cal Raleigh's solo home run in the third and a three-run sixth that included Victor Robles singling in two runs, stealing second base and scoring when a pickoff attempt led to two Texas errors.

The Rangers countered by cutting the deficit to one run in the sixth on an RBI single by Josh Smith and a three-run homer by Wyatt Langford off starter Bryan Woo.

## BREWERS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 9

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Jake Bauers drove in the go-ahead run with a pinch-hit infield single that capped a four-run eighth inning as Milwaukee overcame an eight-run deficit and avoided a series sweep, rallying for a win over Arizona.

The Brewers trailed 8-0 in the third before chipping away and tying that game at 9 by scoring three runs with two outs in the eighth inning. Jackson Chourio walked, took second on Blake Perkins' single, and scored on Garrett Mitchell's RBI single to make it 9-7. Justin Martinez (5-6) relieved and Rhys Hoskins tied it with a two-run single to left.

Willy Adames doubled and Hoskins advanced to third base before Bauers hit a run-scoring slow-rolling grounder for a single to the left side.

Jared Koenig (9-4) earned the win and the Brewers' Devin Williams worked a scoreless ninth for his 13th save in 14 chances.

## CARDINALS 2, GUARDIANS 1

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Lars Nootbaar scored the go-ahead run from second base on a wild pitch and Andre Pallante allowed one hit in seven innings as St. Louis beat Cleveland.

Myles Straw's single in the sixth inning was the only hit Pallante (8-

8) allowed in seven innings. Pallante walked two and struck out three.

Andrew Kittredge pitched a scoreless eighth inning, and Ryan Helsley pitched the ninth to earn his major league leading 47th save, breaking a tie with Guardians reliever Emmanuel Clase.

Gavin Williams allowed one run on four hits and two walks in 5 2/3 innings for the Guardians, who clinched the American League Central Division title Saturday night. Williams has received just 18 runs of support in 16 starts this season.

## ANGELS 9, ASTROS 8

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Zach Neto hit two home runs and drove in six, and Los Angeles came from behind twice to beat Houston.

The Angels trailed 4-0 in the sixth before scoring two runs in back-to-back innings, and then took the lead in the eighth on a solo shot from Neto. The Astros responded with two runs in the bottom of the inning before the Angels had a four-run ninth.

Leading 9-6, Jose Quijada gave up a pair of RBI singles to Yainer Diaz and Victor Caratini, making it a one-run game. The Angels called on Guillo Zuniga to close it out. He struck out Jeremy Pena with the tying run on third base. It was Zuniga's second save of the season. Brock Burke (2-1) got the win.

## GIANTS 2, ROYALS 0

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Blake Snell struck out nine in six strong innings and San Francisco completed a three-game series sweep with a win over Kansas City.

Kansas City was shut out for the second straight game and lost its seventh straight. The Royals dropped into a tie with Detroit (82-74) in the race for an AL wild card. Minnesota is a half-game back of Kansas City and the Tigers, pending the outcome of its second game of a doubleheader against Boston.

Snell (5-3) allowed two singles and a walk and didn't allow a runner past first base. In his last 14 starts, he is 5-0 with a 1.23 ERA

and 114 strikeouts.

## CUBS 5, NATIONALS 0

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Shota Imanaga pitched seven crisp innings in his sixth consecutive win, and Chicago beat Washington.

Imanaga (15-3) was backed by home runs from Mike Tauchman, Michael Busch and Miguel Amaya. The Japanese left-hander allowed six hits, struck out four and walked none, continuing his strong finish to his first season in the majors.

The start of the game was delayed for 2 hours, 20 minutes because of rain. The Wrigley Field crowd of 30,086 passed the time by watching much of the Bears' 21-16 loss at Indianapolis on the massive videoboard in left-center.

## DODGERS 6, ROCKIES 5

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit a game-tying home run in the ninth inning and Mookie Betts followed with a game-ending blast as the Dodgers rallied victory over Colorado to maintain their three-game lead in the National League West.

Ohtani had four hits and added two stolen bases, giving him 53 home runs and 55 steals on the season.

Three pitches after Ohtani tied the game against Rockies right-hander Seth Halvorsen, Betts homered to left, his 19th.

## YANKEES 7, ATHLETICS 4

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 55th homer of the season, Gleyber Torres and Jasson Domínguez also went deep and New York beat Oakland for a three-game sweep that moved the Yankees to the verge on an AL East title.

Already assured of a playoff berth, the Yankees (92-64) can clinch the division with one victory over second-place Baltimore (86-70) during a three-game series in the Bronx that starts Tuesday night.

New York opened a two-game lead over Cleveland for homefield advantage throughout the AL playoffs.

## METS 2, PHILLIES 1

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Brandon Nimmo hit a tiebreaking, sixth-inning home run off Zack Wheeler that sailed just over the glove of leaping right fielder Nick Castellanos, and New York beat Philadelphia to prevent the Phillies from clinching the NL East at Citi Field.

New York (87-69) took three of four from the Phillies and has won 18 of its last 23 games to move a season-high 18 games over .500. The Mets passed Arizona into the second of three NL wild card slots, ahead of the Diamondbacks because they won the season series 4-3, and stayed two games ahead of the Braves (85-71). New York finishes the regular season with three games each at Atlanta and Milwaukee.

Philadelphia (92-64) needs one win in its last six games to clinch its first NL East title since 2011. The Phillies host the Chicago Cubs in a three-game series starting Monday night, then close with three games at Washington next weekend.

# DMS, HMS notch wins in girls soccer

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Dandan Middle School Totots and Hopwood Middle School Hilitais notched wins in the continuation of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Inter-scholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Totots flew high against Tanapag Middle School Tatagas, 6-2.

Despite the Tatagas breaking the ice first in the fifth minute by Jade Pascual, the

Tottots evened it up just a minute after from a goal by Elikristiana Iglecias.

Both teams then duked it out on the pitch without results until the 11th minute when DMS' Talina Augon-McClure found the back of the net to put them up, 2-1. Aguon-McClure was on fire after that and completed the hat-trick by the 17th minute for a 4-1 lead.

DMS went on to score one more goal in the first half off of Iglecias, while the Tatagas were still mum.

Before TMS could even land their second goal of the game, Iglecias rolled in her

hat-trick in the 31st minute for a 6-1 lead. Then, when it seemed like TMS would be silenced from there, Chelsea Santos got them on board in the 39th. However, it was too little too late for a comeback as time ran out, for a 6-2 DMS win.

In the game right after, the Hilitais bludgeoned Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus, 16-0.

It was a goal-frenzy for HMS as COVMS fell to their knees in an effort to put a stop to it. In the first half, the Hilitais exuded confidence which they continued to show throughout the rest of the game.

Nine back-to-back goals would score right from the opening whistle as Princess Gariguez started the onslaught in the first minute. Two more goals would slip past COVMS' keeper in the next three minutes, plus one more in the eighth by Angel Calayag.

A minute later, Elyza Brillo nipped the net for a quick 5-0 advantage. She would score the sixth goal just six minutes later. A goal by teammate Samantha Escarcha whizzed past in the 19th, then Brillo completed her hat-trick in the 23rd minute for an 8-0 lead. Brillo then collected her fourth goal just two minutes later.

The second half was the same story for HMS as they put up seven more unanswered goals. Hayven Moteisou com-



LEIGH GASES  
File photo shows Hopwood Middle School's girls soccer team celebrating, as head coach Dominic Tudela looks on after their first game against Saipan International School last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

pleted her hat-trick in the 29th minute, while Alina Esakova completed hers by the 45th minute. Calayag, Alyza De Belen, and Aubyguel Castro contributed a goal apiece.

Finally, time expired and put the Lancherus out of their misery after a 0-16 barrage.

In the standings so far, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders and DMS have one win each; the Hilitais have a one win and one draw record; Saipan International School Lady Geckos have one draw; while TMS has one loss, and COVMS have two losses.

## SINCLAIR

From page 16

won several gold medals at the Micronesia Games and Pacific Games. We've seen them lead our team to the gold so we know that they're very tough as a 1-2 punch. Colin Ramsey and Tomas are our top-ranked players based here and have been working hard to prepare themselves as well. Of course, Ramsey has played in both the Solomon Games and won gold with Robbie in the Marshall Islands. Tomas has experience playing in both team and individual situations also. Mainly everyone including myself is very excited to be a part of the NMI's first ever Davis Cup squad," he added.

The only possible roadblock for the NMI Davis Cup team's success in their inaugural stint in Davis Cup is lack of practice time together.

"We will meet in Bahrain a couple of days before the competition begins but we won't all be together until then," admitted Race.

Sinclair, meanwhile, said he's very excited to represent the CNMI in Davis Cup.

"I've really enjoyed my time in Bahrain before so looking forward to going back. It will be great to compete with old and new teammates and coach

Jeff and hopefully will get promoted. It will be a tough week as there are 15 teams with only two teams going to Group 4. I know the Philippines is coming back after a five-year hiatus so they will be a strong team," he said.

Sinclair said he's been sidelined recently due to a back injury, but assured everyone that he'll be back to the grind soon.

"I'm taking a bit of rest now for a back injury I've been dealing with. Will hope to play in Cairns, Australia in two weeks."

Like his doubles partner, Schorr is also thrilled to again represent the CNMI in competition.

"I feel super honored to be picked for this team and I hope to bring success for the first NMI Davis Cup. It's a new experience in a new place of the world for me, but I'm ready to give everything I can give to the team!" he said.

His confidence is also sky high at the moment as Schorr has had great success in the college ranks.

"I have been training pretty well. I'm also playing really well at the moment so I have a lot of confidence in my game right now. I just need to stay smart with my body and health, and make sure I don't over work myself, and lastly take time to stretch and recover off the court."

For his part, Ramsey said he also feel honored to be representing the CNMI in its first Davis Cup appearance.

"My year started out by coaching our junior Davis Cup team in Sri Lanka and now I get to play for the Davis Cup! It has been a wonderful journey this year. I hope to serve as an inspiration to the kids, all of whom now have many more opportunities open for them to strive for. I've been playing as much as I can. I'm feeling the best I've felt in a long time.

Abel also is stoked for being part of the NMI Davis Cup.

"I'm absolutely honored and excited to be a part of the first NMI team to play for the Davis Cup. We have a great group of guys on the team and I know we all are going to play our hearts out and bring victories back with us.

As for training in the runup to the Davis Cup, he said he's been practicing a lot with the usual suspects.

"Lots of practice with Collin, Morris, and others, plus strength training and conditioning as always. Those are key. I don't know the quality of the other teams so it's hard to put down an expectation per se, but for me and I'm sure the rest of our team—we go into every match wanting and willing to win it. And that's how we will go into the Davis Cup as well," he said.

## NMI

From page 16

they went on to concede just two more goals to Alyousef who completed his hat-trick in the 53rd minute.

Today, the NMI team faces off against the United Arab Emirates before they go up against South Korea on Thursday, Sept. 26. The NMI concludes their campaign against Lebanon on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Team manager Mikky Vargas said of their first match, "It was a great challenge, particularly in the opening 15 minutes, as the boys worked

to adjust to Kuwait's speed, physicality, and overall playing quality. We conceded an early goal, which shook us a bit, but as the game progressed, the boys started to find their rhythm. They grew more comfortable with the intensity, created a few attacking opportunities, and managed to hold Kuwait to only two additional goals in the second half."

"Though the score does not reflect the fight the boys put up, the coaching staff commended their efforts and resilience to push until the final whistle, and we are proud of their determination to represent the NMI with heart and

grit," she said.

For today's matchup at 12:30am Chamorro Standard Time, she said, "UAE is expected to be an even tougher opponent than Kuwait, but the boys are eager to take on the challenge. They have learned valuable lessons from the first match and are ready to apply them as they step onto the field again."

Vargas then said, "Thank you once again for your unwavering support—it means the world to the team. They're carrying your energy with them every time they step on the field, and we can't wait to make you all proud."

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	92	64	.590	—
Baltimore	86	70	.551	6
Boston	78	78	.500	14
Tampa Bay	78	78	.500	14
Toronto	73	83	.468	19
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	90	67	.573	—
Detroit	82	74	.526	7½
Kansas City	82	74	.526	7½
Minnesota	81	75	.519	8½
Chicago	36	120	.231	53½
West Division				
Houston	85	71	.545	—
Seattle	80	76	.513	5
Texas	74	82	.474	11
Oakland	67	89	.429	18
Los Angeles	63	93	.404	22
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
z-Philadelphia	92	64	.590	—
New York	87	69	.558	5
Atlanta	85	71	.545	7
Washington	69	87	.442	23
Miami	57	99	.365	35
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	89	67	.571	—
Chicago	80	76	.513	9
St. Louis	79	77	.506	10
Cincinnati	76	81	.484	13½
Pittsburgh	73	83	.468	16
West Division				
z-Los Angeles	93	63	.596	—
San Diego	90	66	.577	3
Arizona	87	69	.558	6
San Francisco	77	79	.494	16
Colorado	60	96	.385	33

x-clinched division  
z-clinched playoff berth

NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	2	0	.333	33	72
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57
South						
Houston	2	1	0	.667	55	74
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	58	61
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78
North						
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	51	26
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	71	78
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	50	67
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42
West						
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	75	62
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	58	33
Denver	1	2	0	.333	52	46
Las Vegas	1	2	0	.333	58	81
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	70	63
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	77	89
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	45	64
South						
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	103	44
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	64	62
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	49	61
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	49	95
North						
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	85	30
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	62	53
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	75	58
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	53	57
West						
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	73	43
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	82	64
L.A. Rams	1	2	0	.333	57	91
San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	73	69

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Darnold throws  
4 TD's as  
undefeated  
Vikings  
overwhelm Texans**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**DMS, HMS  
notch wins  
in girls  
soccer**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Sinclair to lead NMI Davis Cup Team

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation has named the NMI Davis Cup Team and it's not much of a shock that ATP Tour veteran and former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup player Colin Sinclair will lead the Commonwealth's campaign in Group 5 in Bahrain starting Nov. 18, 2025.

NMITF president Jeff Race said that aside from the 29-year-old, the NMI Davis Cup selection committee also has chosen Robbie Schorr, Colin Ramsey, Tomas Abel, and Moris Vilanueva (alternate) to round out the team.

After a 17-year hiatus as a Davis Cup captain, Race returns as the skipper of the NMI Davis Cup team and he's optimistic about the Common-



Colin Sinclair



Colin Ramsey



Robbie Schorr



Tomas Abel

wealth's debut in Davis Cup.

"Since we have to begin our Davis Cup journey in Group 5, I think that we will be very competitive and have a good chance to advance to Group 4 if everyone remains healthy. The CNMI Sports Hall of Famer

said there's no doubt that the CNMI's biggest asset is Sinclair.

"With his ATP ranking he will be at or close to being one of the top players there. Of course, Robbie Schorr is actively playing for William Woods University and just

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## 6 off to Australia for FIBA 3x3 program

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation flew out six cagers to South East Queensland, Australia for the FIBA 3x3 High Performance Development Program that will run from Sept. 24 to Sept. 28.

The cagers are Marlene Lumabi (coach); Sha Aina Mendoza (referee); Kina Rangamar (player); Ty Cepeda (player); Chioni Dela Cruz (player); and Kaia Travilla.

For Lumabi, Mendoza, Rangamar, Cepeda, and Dela Cruz, they are participating in the comprehensive program that, according to FIBA Oceania, focuses on skill development, high-performance training, coaching and referee education, and competitive opportunities in 3x3 basketball. This pilot program aims to set a precedent for future initiatives to nurture 3x3 basketball talent in the region.

It is also designed to develop teams, athletes, and officials preparing for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Koror, Palau.

Travilla is there for another program in which she will be immersed in media operations, including social media content curation. She will also join the regional Women in News and Sport Alumni network and might be considered for additional learning



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Marlene Lumabi, Chioni Dela Cruz, Kina Rangamar, Sha Aina Mendoza, Ty Cepeda, and Kaia Travilla pose for a group photo en route to Australia for the FIBA 3x3 High Performance Development Program that will run from today, Tuesday, Sept. 24, to Saturday, Sept. 28.

and engagement opportunities offered in the future.

On Day 1 and 2 of the camp, it is athlete, coach, and referee development. Day 3 is community engagement/media day and day one of 3x3 competitions. Day 4 and 5 are continuation of 3x3 competitions.

Lumabi said NMIBF wants the crew in Australia to "definitely come back with knowledge from the training. I don't see them often because I have my own sessions as a coach while they have their sessions as players. So, to have them out there and get the experience and knowledge on how 3x3 works, I'm hoping they'll come back and

be able to share that with their fellow teammates and not safe guard it."

For herself, she said, "I'm going down there and I definitely want to soak in as much as I can as a coach because it is a different style of coaching. In 3x3, you don't have a coach on the court—it's off the court where the adjustments and feedback happen. So, to have them there, it will be great for them to start developing their leadership skills. I'm with them, but I won't be physically with them, so this is where they're going to start developing."

At the end of the day, she said, "NMIBF's goal as a federation is to grow the 3x3 game."

## NMI falls to host Kuwait, 0-6



AFC

NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team player Leland Deleon Guerrero, left, is entangled with a Kuwait player in the fight for possession during their first game in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Sunday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team fell to host Kuwait, 0-6, at the start of their campaign in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Sunday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

In Group C, the NMI team is facing off against strong contenders as they try to put up a fight, keep calm, and play on.

The Kuwait team fired on all cylinders early on as the NMI team conceded a goal just a minute in to Kuwait's Eid Al Ruqbah. Kuwait

then doubled up the lead with another goal by Turki Alyousef in the sixth minute.

Kuwait went on to score two more goals in the first half while the young NMI team shook off the dirt and regrouped for the second half.

But try as they might, the NMI was no match to Kuwait's overall prowess on the pitch. They could not find an opening despite strenuous efforts offensively, and were held down by Kuwait's impenetrable defense with the clock winding down.

The NMI created some chances at the goal but came up empty, and

See NMI on Page 15

